

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

(First Wednesday of the month)

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Port Tampa Bay Boardroom, 1101 Channelside Drive

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – Chair Kimberlee Curtis opened the meeting at 5:36 p.m.
2. **Public Comment** – Mark Siebenaller addressed his and others concerns on only having two designs for Washington Street Park. He suggested considering the dog park be incorporated into the upcoming 810 Channelside Drive urban park design as opposed to at Washington Street Park. He mentioned not to forget the need for holiday tree space and to consider family uses. Siebenaller also suggested reaching out to the Tampa Downtown Partnership related to engagement and funding from a programming standpoint. He would like it explored how more TDP funding can come back to the Channel District.
3. **Action Items**
 - 3.1. Approval of the March 6, 2024, Meeting Minutes *{MOTION}*
Motion (Scaglione/Aylesworth) motioned to approve the March 6, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Reports**
 - 4.1. CRA *COMMERCIAL* Grants Portfolio Audit & Recommendations – Grant’s Team
Vanassa Ross provided a presentation on the proposed CRA grants. The group thought overall the recommendations were great. They like the streamlined approach for applicants and how the programs will be promoted. It was questioned if a property owner can only apply for one program per year as in the past. The answer was that they now could apply more than once in that timeframe, especially since they could have multipole tenants that may have interest in applying. It was discussed that if approved by the CRA Board the new grants would have individual budget line items with CAC agreed upon amounts assigned.
 - 4.2. Florida Aquarium Activities – Andy Wood, Executive VP of Strategic Initiatives & COO
Andy Wood reported the preparations completed to accommodate an uptick in visitors over the next four weeks due to Spring Break. He was asked about Tide Talks held in the last part of the month. These offer great educational opportunities. The next one is on safety around water on 3/27/24. Wood announced that sensory day of discovery is on 3/29/24 and that the Easter bunny will make a stop at the Aquarium on 3/30/24.
 - 4.3. Tampa Downtown Partnership Neighborhood Branding – Rachel Radawec and Caroline Keesler
Caroline Keesler provided a PowerPoint presentation on the neighborhood branding project including community outreach conducted by the Partnership with the consultant api+. The session outcomes were provided to help them with marketing efforts to implement within the brand. She ran through the visuals from the grid graphic shared that represent each of the seven neighborhoods. Branding could be placed on amenities like trash cans, bike racks, planters, etc. with city permission. They developed an intersection kit to easily identify which neighborhood people are in and a catalogue for grant color palette icons they can implement. Funds were allocated from this year’s Partnership budget. It was emphasized that this is the Partnerships project for neighborhood images, not the city’s wayfinding signage project. The branding identity exercise was fully funded by the Partnership. Once the city’s wayfinding study is approved, they hope to cross pollinate their

imagery with the city's wayfinding signage. Radawec mentioned that api+ has knowledge of both programs. They saw value in engaging them after they were contracted by the city. She said it is the city's decision in the end and hopes to coordinate. They plan to make the request that their information is incorporated into the city's next step. When asked about the timeframe, Radawec said they have already started implementing. They are excited to give the neighborhoods an identity. They've wanted to do this for the past couple of years. They started this past summer and are launching now. The Partnership is getting out in the community excited to show everyone. The group thought the branding looked great all around.

4.4. Washington Street Park Progress – Hannah Plate, Jamie Wright and Greg Bryla, Dix Hite

4.4.1. Workshop #2 Results

Hannah Plate reported that they were contracted to provide two schematic concepts. They are in the design phase three portion to refine the final design. They will present it to the CRA on May 9 and then will further refine the design. Workshop number two was gathering qualitative input to get people to learn toward a concept. The community preference is the dog park 'perch' concept.

4.5. Kimmins Project Updates – John Zemina, Kimmins

John Zemina provided an update on the work and that Twiggs is completed. They are waiting to begin Channelside Drive. In early April, the overhead electronic sign to the Aquarium will be installed. The portion of 12th Street up north and back will last another three years until it is completed. It was questioned if the missing sidewalk portion could be installed at the underpass. Staff will follow up on this request.

5. New Business

5.1. FY25 Budget Planning

Orr provided the FY24 budget with a column for FY25 with a projected 5% increase. She said that we need to begin considering amounts for each FY25 line item. The group requested the April agenda be cleared to accommodate for FY25 budget planning discussions.

6. Unfinished Business

6.1. Real Estate Inquiry (1125 Twiggs Street) – CRA Manager Courtney Orr

Orr reported that Real Estate is proceeding to obtain an appraisal of the properties owned by A&B Opportunities Inc. Since the value of the properties will be more than \$500,000, RE will need two appraisals. However, RE recommends it obtain one appraisal initially to determine whether we are in the price range of what the owner may be willing to sell his property. If we can reach an agreement, we can make the contract subject to the City obtaining a second appraisal to support value. RE will send Orr a copy of the proposal quotes once received.

6.2. No U-turn Request on Meridian – Orr

Orr resorted on communications with THEA. The good news is that they are developing plans with the intent to have their Asset Maintenance Contractor install the no U-turn signs. They expect completion within two months. They requested clarity on the request. My communication showed northbound only, but there was some discussion on southbound as well. It was clarified by the group that there should be no U-turns signs from Channelside to Twiggs at every intersection for northbound and southbound. Orr will follow up with THEA.

6.3. Enhanced Landscaping Bid – Orr

Orr reported that the award is going to Nelsons Tree Farm that currently has another contract with the city. The bid was for around \$107,000 that includes Channelside Drive. The contract encompasses everything east of Meridian over to Channelside Drive, including Channelside Dr. and everything north the Crosstown. There are however some buildings in the Channelside District that maintain the landscaping in front of their respective buildings, therefore, those are not covered by the maintenance contract since they have an agreement to maintain their area. Parks is working on scheduling the approval of the contract with City Council.

6.4. Security Cameras Update – Orr

The last report provided by TPD was that the proposal was still in Purchasing for review.

6.5. Beneficial Bridge Study – Orr

Orr reported that Element Engineering and Mobility is drafting a scope of work for staff review.

6.6. 810 Channelside Drive (RV Lot) – Orr

Staff is working on the draft scope of work for RFP for design concepts and that the scope will include CAC and Community input meetings. The CACs preference is that the approach is not how Washington Street Park’s approach was handled. They would like the designer to also construct the park.

6.7. Quarterly Pressure Washing – Orr

Staff met with pressure washing contractor on site. The contractor is testing a new type of chemical for paint/graffiti removal. The contractor provided a proposal today for review and approval.

7. Announcements/Discussion

7.1. CAC Member Orientation – March 25 or April 1 (pick one) at the Ybor Entrepreneur Collaborative Center from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Orr reminded the group of the upcoming orientations and provided the flier with the QR code to RSVP.

7.2. Next CAC Meeting – April 3, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., Port Tampa Bay Boardroom

7.3. Next CRA Board Meeting – March 21, 2024, at 9 a.m., Tampa City Hall

8. Adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

CAC Attendance

Abbey Ahern
David Aylesworth
Julie Sabolic
Kimberlee Curtis
Brent Hill
Michael Leeds
Andy Scaglione
Steve McGlockin - A
Ed Washington

Guests

John Zemina, Kimmins
Andy Wood, Aquarium
Caroline Keesler, DTP
Rachel Radawec, DTP
Vanassa Ross, CRA
Corine Linebrink, CRA
Mark Siebenaller