

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

Meeting Summary

April 15, 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 5:31 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

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	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	A
Vacant	Greater West Tampa Community Council		
Vacant	West Tampa Alliance		

P: present V: Virtual

Staff present: Brenda Thrower, Chris Ullian, Bryce Fehringer, Nick Bennett, Be Parks (virtual) and Cedric McCray (virtual).

Sign In Sheet: Andrea White

Public Comment: Michael Randolph

Approval of March 18, 2025, CAC Meeting Minutes – Chair Robinson asked for approval of the minutes. *There was a motion (Ramirez/Maloney) to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimously approved.*

Rey Park Improvement Update – Nick Bennett gave a brief update stating the project is 60% design and will be coming back to the CAC at 90%. Jones asked about dates for the project and Bennett said we are about 6-8 weeks away from 90%. Robinson asked that specific dates should

be provided that are in line with the contract. The full team will give an update with dates at the June 17th CAC meeting. Fenton asked for an estimated date for a park groundbreaking ceremony and Bennet said a reasonable timetable would be January 2026, followed by 12 months of construction. She would like to know plan for the park and its youth programs during the park's construction. Ramirez was concerned about the looseness of the schedule and would like to see a more specific timeline. Based on the discussion, Chair Robinson passed the gavel to Carlos Ramirez to make a motion. ***There was a motion (Robinson/Jones) for staff to provide the construction schedule for Rey Park for the 60% drawings to the CAC at next month's meeting. Vote passed unanimously.*** Discussion took place and Wilson asked if we could have a mid-summer update on the project. Thrower suggested scheduling a presentation with the full team before we break in July. Robinson recommended next month.

Rey Park Streetscape Improvement Project – Bryce Fehringer presented a proposed streetscape project around Rey Park to compliment and complete the park. A site plan and memo were included in the packet. The project's estimate is \$1 million, which was provided by Mr. Tony Monk at City Parks. A conceptual drawing was presented that included new lighting, sidewalk enhancements and landscaping. Fehringer requested the CAC support up to a \$1 million for this project that will be bid out as a design build. Discussion kicked off about the costs. Maloney said the CAC has already spent a lot of money on this park and now we have an additional layer of costs for the perimeter. Also, she asked will these improvements help our stormwater management in the neighborhood. Are the trees being planted irrigated? Fehringer clarified the site plan, and that this project would be a separate funding allocation. Twigs Street is within the boundary of the park, but he deferred to Parks as to why it was not included in the first scope. The landscaping being installed will not interfere with any stormwater issues. Fenton asked about the timing of this project and why it was not thought about from the beginning. Also, is there any discussion with the city about cost sharing on these improvements since they are in the ROW. Fehringer said we could explore this request with mobility, but the schedule for improvements may not meet our timeline. Braccia said he is frustrated with the lack of coordination between CRA and City on these types of projects. ***There was a motion (Braccia/ Ramirez) to inquire with Parks and Mobility about the possibility of the city sharing the cost on this project and what the timeline would be. Robinson offered a friendly amendment to explore using the same contractor for the streetscape. They requested a presentation at the June 17 CAC meeting. Vote was approved.*** Ramirez said improvements funded by CRA should be above and beyond basic services. The general fund could handle the basic level of services. Fenton suggested partnering with the City's tree program so this would be a cost- saving measure. Wilson asked why this is coming up now and concerned about the timeline. He wants to make sure it's coordinated, and this project doesn't hold back the completion of the park. Thrower said staff can ask Parks and Mobility to partner and get back to you. Robinson said that this is an example of poor planning, and the sidewalks should have been included in the original plan. He

asked if Twit is a legal street? What is the City's plan for the streets surrounding the park? He recommended the same contractor be used for this scope of work for time and cost efficiencies.

Staff Reports

- a. **Projects Team** – Report was included in the packet. Fenton asked about the historic marker program. The CRA could consider funding markers since they are sign structures, but staff requested legal to verify. Discussion took place about funding markers and CAC support. Wilson asked about Freedom Park and the timeline. Staff responded with updates. There was also discussion about the new four-way stop sign at Albany and Main Street and pedestrian safety. ***There was a motion (Ramirez/Braccia) to get an update from Mobility regarding the safety concerns regarding the intersection at Albany and Main Street. Vote was unanimously approved.*** Other updates included HART bus stops, art projects, and CRP. Robinson commented about permit ready plans for projects like the Freemont Street Opening.
- b. **Grants Team** – A tabloid size of the report was provided for easier reading which was well received by CAC members. Ms. Dee Reed, CRA Grants Team, has requested to be on the agenda next month to provide a Grant Policy update.
- c. **Housing Program**- Report was included and Be Parks joined virtual to give a verbal report on the promotion of the housing programs to the community as well as the existing conditions of housing applying for assistance. She explained the grant process, Job Order Contracting (JOC) program. Jones asked to pay attention to the elderly residents, so they do not get taken advantage of. Fenton asked about the property at 2131 Main Street, Wright Property Brokers LLC and if there is an opportunity to purchase it. This is a commercial property and will follow up with the grants team since it's on their list as inactive. The CAC wants to know how we can get that property renovated. Parks said that that housing team continues to look for properties to acquire for affordable housing.
- d. **Manager Report**
 - a. **FY26 Draft Budget** – Thrower presented a large version of a balanced FY26 Draft Budget and walked through the entire budget line by line. The expected revenue is \$8,828,886 which is a 5% increase from FY25 for budget planning. She explained the budget section by section starting with Outreach & Communication; Redevelopment Investment; Affordable Housing; Infrastructure and Capital Projects; Transportation & Mobility; Community Policing; Historic Preservation; and Quality of Life & Community Improvement. CAC discussed several projects and how they would like to continue to encumber and spend the funds. The encumbered category would be helpful to show committed funds, so they know what funds are available. The CAC approved the FY26 budget by the following motion: ***There was a motion (Fenton/Maloney) to approve the proposed draft FY26 Budget. Vote was unanimously approved.***
 - b. **West Tampa Main Street Clean Team** - The CAC discussed this item during the budget discussion. Williams Landscaping contract is due to expire and wanted to ask for CAC input on their current services and what future contract should include. Young asked about handling illegal dumping, like mattresses off Main Street. There was

discussion about enhancing clean team services to include a beautification program. Wilson said to increase service to 7 days a week since weekends are getting busy. They requested adding 2 more blocks from Armenia to Rome for a total of 8 blocks and from Green to Union. The Housing Authority owns the property from Rome to North Boulevard, but the street and sidewalk is public. Litter is becoming a problem so add that area for spot cleaning. Also, they requested adding pressure washing the sidewalks. ***There was a motion (Braccia/Ramirez) to rebid the contract for the Main Street Clean Team from Armenia to Rome to include 7 days per week service; sidewalk pressure washing; litter control; area spot cleaning; and monthly reporting. Vote was unanimously approved.***

CAC also discussed the alley cleaning contract which was renewed another year. The goal is to complete two more annual cleanings for next year along with an educational program in coordination with Code Enforcement. A flyer will be distributed to owners to educate them on their responsibility to clean and maintain the alley.

- c. **Legislative Update HB 991 SB 1242** – An amendment was issued with more specific language about prohibited activities. There was a committee meeting today and the original bill language is being challenged.

e. **New Business**

- a. Ramirez said the website needs updating for CAC meeting minutes and grant information is hard to find.
- b. Thrower passed out the 2024 Annual Report.
- c. Robinson submitted 5 Good Neighbor Notices for various properties.

f. **Announcements**

- Salcines Park Groundbreaking Ceremony is planned for August 16, 2025, at 2:30 pm
- Next CRA Board meeting: May 8, 2025, at 9 a.m. at Tampa City Council
- Next CAC Meeting: May 20, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at MLK Community Center

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm