



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

**Meeting Summary**

May 21, 2024, 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.

CAC Member	At-Large or Ex-Officio Seat	CAC Term (FY)	Present or Absent
Joseph Robinson, Chair	West Tampa Community Development Corp.	2025	P
Carlos Ramirez, Vice Chair	North Hyde Park Alliance	2025	P
Michael Braccia	At Large	2025	P
Sandra Sanchez	At Large	2025	P
Janice Williams	At Large	2025	P
Bobby Wilson	Old West Tampa Neighborhood Association and Crimewatch	2025	P
Jeanette LaRussa Fenton	West Tampa Chamber of Commerce	2024	P
Cynthia Maloney	North Hyde Park Civic Association	2025	P
Heem Baisden	West Tampa Alliance	2024	A
Delphine Jones	West Riverfront Crime Watch Group	2025	P
Tina Young	Project Link Inc.	2024	P
Vacant	Greater West Tampa Community Council		
Vacant	Tampa Housing Authority		

**Staff present:** Brenda Thrower, Melisa Martinez, Nick Bennett, Fed Revolte, Austin Britt, Chris Ullian

**Sign In Sheet:** Nicholas Otzko, Stephen Michelini, Jack Smith, Hanna Shaffer, Nicole Galasso, Jared Schnieder, Mikayla Otzko, Aileen Henderson, Noreen Miller, Ryan Liin, James Ransom. Virtual participants were Michael Randolph and David Iloynya.

**Opening Comments:** Chair Robinson asked if there are any changes to the agenda. ***A motion was made to approve the day’s agenda (Maloney /Fenton) and approved unanimously.***

**Public Comments:** Chair Robinson opened the meeting to public comments. Two speakers: Stephen Michelini and Michael Randolph.

**Approval of April 23, 2024, CAC Meeting Minutes – There was a motion (Maloney/Ramirez) to approve the minutes with changes. Delphine Jones was present. The vote was unanimously approved.**

## Community Policing Updates

**Tampa Police Department-** Officers Gig Brown and Gary Neal presented the crime stats. Crime is trending down with isolated incidents. Overall, crime within the WTCAC boundaries is better.

**Code Enforcement:** none

## Special Presentations

- a. **City Residential Parking Decal Program** – City Parking Manager, Fed Revolte and Parking Planner, Austin Britt introduced themselves and explained the City’s residential parking decal program. Chapter 15 of the municipal code states that you must have 1 million square foot neighborhood to establish a parking permit program and then you need to conduct a survey of all residents in that district and obtain 60% in favor of it. When you have established neighborhood buy in, then you can move forward with the residential parking permit program. Residents will be allowed 2 free on street permits and there is a cost for additional ones. There was further discussion about parking regulations and who to call. There is a 24/7 call number 813-274-8523 and Revolte offered to send a one-page fact sheet to Manager Thrower to distribute to the CAC.
  
- b. **West Tampa Alleyway Study-** City representative Andy Mikuluski introduced the Kimley Horn consultant team members: Hanna Shaffer, Nicole Galasso and Jared Schneider, who presented the alleyway study. The study assessed the conditions of all alleys in the West Tampa CRA, and they presented a power point presentation depicting different types of alleys with recommendations of ways to improve them. There was discussion about types of alley materials to use, safety issues, standard alley size and business outreach. The consultant recommendation was to prioritize the alleys based on highest need and identify 10 alleys for alley improvements. A map of alleys with poorest conditions was presented for the CAC members to discuss and prioritize. A map was presented with numbers identifying each alley. The CAC decided to prioritize 5 alleys north of I275 and 5 alleys south of I275. The alley numbers were 1720, 1725, 1755, 1025, 1085, 1125, 1477, 1825, 1530, and 1830. ***There was a motion (Ramirez/Maloney) to support the prioritization of 10 West Tampa alley as identified by number for alley improvements. Vote was unanimously approved.*** Additionally, the CAC asked about business outreach, particularly regarding the alleys identified and felt this was an important step before moving forward. The consultant will work with staff to develop the scope of work for a business survey.
  
- c. **El Centro Espanol Concept – AIA Tampa Bay Student Award Winner Project** – Nick Otzko, USF School of Architecture student presented his project and model to the CAC for a redesign of the historic El Centro Espanol and its site. The project was well received by the CAC and Mr. Otzko received feedback and compliments from members.

## Staff Reports

- a. **Projects Team**  
Nick Bennett presented the monthly projects list and provided a status of several of the pertinent projects. The Fremont Linear Park Street opening project proposal is moving forward. To date, there are no issues from Tampa Police, Mobility or Fire Department on the opening of the streets. The community survey is being finalized to include a Spanish translation and will be sent out as a mailer to the West Tampa CAC. The survey will be out for about 45 days with a deadline of July 31. Since

there has been a transition with our communications coordinator moving to the housing team, this project was delayed a bit. There was a discussion about the housing grant programs and when the CAC can get an update. ***There was a motion (Maloney/Fenton) to ask Be Parks to attend the June or July CAC meeting to provide an update on the CRA residential grant programs. Vote was unanimously approved.***

CAC members commented on the Project Tracking Report and suggested adding completion dates. Also, they wanted to know where we are tracking other approved projects like the Historic Preservation Cultural Asset Inventory. Chair Robinson suggested that the CAC take time at the next meeting in June to review Jesus Nino's list of projects.

**b. Community Redevelopment Department Staffing Update**

Brenda Thrower updated the CAC on the current staffing levels. There are still several vacancies among the various teams that the Director is working to fill so this is a priority. The new Arts and Culture Coordinator on board soon. Fenton reminded the CAC about the motion made at the last meeting to support more staff to assist West Tampa. Thrower said the motion was relayed. At this time, the department's priority is to fill vacant positions.

## **New Business**

a. **Neighborhood Commercial District-** Sandy Sanchez mentioned the presentation at the last CRA Board meeting regarding East Tampa establishing a neighborhood commercial district and she encouraged the CAC to listen to the presentation. She would like to work on establishing one for West Tampa and to revisit former plans. She suggested engaging Stephen Benson from the Planning Department to assist. ***There was a motion to engage City Planning to look at all CRA properties and develop a plan for establishing a neighborhood commercial district. Vote was unanimously approved.***

b. **CRA Property Acquisition** - Furthermore, there was discussion about acquiring property and Sanchez feels that we should aggressively support pursuing the acquisition of properties in West Tampa since it is becoming more challenging. ***There was a motion (Sanchez/Ramirez) to aggressively acquire property in West Tampa within the following boundaries: Green Street (south); Rome (east); Union (north) and Armenia (west). Vote was unanimously approved.***

## **Announcements**

- a. Tina Pike- She announced an upcoming Project Link event and passed out flyers. She will also send to Manager Thrower for distribution.
- b. Next CRA Board Meeting: June 13, 2024, at 9 a.m., Tampa City Hall
- c. Next CAC Meeting: June 18, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., Hillsborough Education Foundation

**Adjournment at 8:54 p.m.**