

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

Meeting Summary

July 23, 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 5:35 p.m. Roll call was taken.

CAC Member	At-Large or Ex-Officio Seat	CAC Term	Present or Absent
Joseph Robinson, Chair	West Tampa Community Development Corp.	1/2025	P
Carlos Ramirez, Vice Chair	North Hyde Park Alliance	1/2025	P
Michael Braccia	At Large	6/2025	P
Sandra Sanchez	At Large	6/2025	P
Janice Williams	At Large	6/2025	P
Bobby Wilson	Old West Tampa Neighborhood Association and Crimewatch	1/2025	A
Jeanette LaRussa Fenton	West Tampa Chamber of Commerce	3/2026	A
Cynthia Maloney	North Hyde Park Civic Association	9/2027	P
Heem Baisden	West Tampa Alliance	1/2024	A
Delphine Jones	West Riverfront Crime Watch Group	1/2025	P
Tina Young	Project Link Inc.	1/2024	P
Vacant	Greater West Tampa Community Council		
David Iloyna	Tampa Housing Authority	7/2028	TBA

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

Sign In Sheet: Mark Anthony Little, Andrea White, Tierra Thompson. Cathy Stone

Public Comments: Chair Robinson opened the meeting to public comments. Two speakers: Mark Anthony Little (in person) and Michael Randolph (online) addressed the CAC.

Approval of June 18, 2024, CAC Meeting Minutes – Sanchez said she requested a report on the CAC member term limits last month and would like that staff provide a report at the Aug. 20 meeting. ***There was a motion (Ramirez/Sanchez) to approve the minutes with that change. The vote was unanimously approved.***

Community Policing Updates

Tampa Police Department- Lieutenant Carlos Houston reported on crime stats and activities in the West Tampa area.



Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Wayne Morrison was present to address any code issues. It was clarified that Code would attend CAC meetings quarterly not monthly. Morrison mentioned the heavy rains have caused extra debris in the neighborhoods and they are reminding residents to maintain their properties. Jones inquired about the retirement of Carlos Rios and Morrison said that Jack Cuccio will be replacing him. Young asked about illegal parking on North Boulevard and who to call? Parking staff shared a one-page document regarding enforcement. Morrison said they can cite abandoned vehicles if they are inoperable.

Special Presentations

a. **Main Street Quick Build Project:** Tim Horst, Vision Zero Coordinator with City Mobility, was welcomed by the CAC. He introduced himself stating that he has been with the City for months. He presented the plans for the quick build along Main Street from Armenia to Delaware Avenues and provided handouts to the CAC. The plans showed the elimination of the traffic signal at Main Street and Albany and installing a 4-way stop. There was a lot of conversation and concern from several members that this change would create pedestrian safety issues. They said that cars roll through 4-way stops and there are a lot of people crossing that intersection. They also commented on the newly acquired Freedom Park property at the corner and once it is activated, there are more pedestrians will be crossing at that intersection and not having a traffic light will be a safety concern. Horst said that the traffic light is old and needing replacement and that an all way stop is recommended alternative for that intersection, Ramirez supported that solution from a professional standpoint and agreed that an all way stop is the most efficient method of traffic control for these intersections. Since the light is at the end of its lifespan, there should be TPD enforcement monitoring this intersection initially before change. Horst said that the light will FLASH red for 2 months (60 days) before the 4-way stop is installed. It allows for time to educate drivers. Ramirez said this is standard procedure for traffic calming. Braccia asked how you identify a problem (i.e. accidents, deaths?) Robinson asked if cameras at the corner can help monitor intersection. Sanchez asked if there can be a 30' setback verses 20' standard by Mobility. Ramirez recommended to extend trial period beyond 6 months, request TPD enforcement during this time and install larger stop signs (36'to 45') for better visibility. Also, there should be attention to the school zones in the area and to add a crossing at Albany and Union.

b. **Cory Robinson, CRA Arts & Culture Coordinator** – Robinson introduced himself providing his background as an artist and working in Pinellas County. He presented a power point presentation that explained the process for implementing public art projects in the CRAs. He understands that one of the projects that West Tampa has been interested in doing is wrapping the traffic signal utility boxes and he would like to help move this project along. He did this project in Pinellas County and the cost was around \$36K. Chair Robinson pointed out the mural at Rey Park and the Public Art Ordinance (1% for Public Art from capital improvement projects citywide). He is happy to hear about Robinson's experience and wants to get projects implemented. Chair Robinson asked about hiring local arts and can we add points for local verses out of town? The call to artists is important and the details must be included there. There was a discussion about murals like the one at Rey Park. The CAC would like to require UV Coating after mural is painted and graffiti abatement measures.

c. **Cornerstone Family Ministries, Rosa's Hug Mural Conceptual** – Cathy Stone presented the mural design concept for the wall funded by the CRA grant. Stone said the project



is complete and the wall is built so now they are ready to complete the mural which requires a community engagement process. Several mural artists were interviewed, and they ended up selecting longtime muralist Carl Cowden III. The mural will cost \$20K but they only had a budget of \$15K so the artist is donating \$5K. The mural design concept, Rosa's Hug, was presented to the CAC and there were no questions. The next step is to present the mural to the CRA Board for approval (9/12). Once approved, the muralist will begin painting (9/13) and be completed 9/30. The grant deadline is October 11, 2024. ***There was a motion (Jones/Sanchez) to support the mural design and request CRA Board approval. Vote was unanimously approved.***

Staff Reports

a. Projects Team

The CAC discussed the report and had several questions/comments by number:

- #3 – Freedom Park- What does “potential risks” (yellow) mean?
- #4 Fremont Linear Park – address needs to be corrected, not 7838 Cherry St.
- #12/#13 – Green Spine/ West Riverwalk – what is the process for the CAC to review and consider supporting these projects?
- #14 – Need more details on this project, need to tie together Main Street Quick Build project and Main Street Neighborhood Commercial District plans. ***There was a motion (Ramirez/Sanchez) to ask staff to inquire on the quickest and most efficient way to consolidate all the West Tampa CRA studies. Vote was unanimously approved.***
- #15 – Where did the funding number \$217,387 come from? Suggested clarifying the language under Arts description (bullet 4)
- #16 – Parks ADA program – Breakdown of funding? Timeline for improvements? Thrower will relay these comments to the project team since they were not present.

Unfinished Business

- A. **West Tampa Overlay District** – Sanchez reported on the community meeting held last month 6/20/24 at Julian B. Lane. David Hunter is preparing a report for the City Council.

New Business

- A. **FRA Conference** – Chair Robinson inquired about the FRA Conference and who could attend. Thrower said registration for the CAC Chair is only allowed per the CAC Policy.
- B. **Real Estate Leads** – Braccia asked if John Fernandez is the contact for sharing real estate leads and Thrower said yes. She encouraged him to reach out to her as well.

Announcements

- a. **Just Elementary/Stewart Middle** – Jones reported on a meeting held about schools' history.
- b. **Community Benefits Advisory Committee** – Robinson announced that he was appointed by the City Council to serve as an At-Large member of the CBAC
- c. Next CRA Board Meeting: July 25, 2024, at 9 a.m., Tampa City Hall
- d. Next CAC Meeting: August 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., Hillsborough Education Foundation

Adjournment at 8:25 p.m.

