



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

**Meeting Summary**

March 26, 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 5:30 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	P
Delphine Jones	West Riverfront Crime Watch Group	2025	P
Tina Young	Project Link Inc.	2024	P
Walter Smith II	Greater West Tampa Community Council	2023	Expired
Vacant	Tampa Housing Authority		

**Staff present:** Cedric McCray, Melisa Martinez, Brenda Thrower, Nick Bennett, Mia Dorton

**Sign In Sheet:** Manny Leto, Allen Berrebbi, Will Holdings, Andrea White, Edith Randolph, Martha Gonzalez, Deborah Howard, Jack Smith, and Jose Olvera.

**Opening Comments:** Chair Robinson reiterated the attendance policy that was covered in the CAC Orientation on March 25, informed the group of the City of Tampa plans to begin broadcasting CAC Meetings on YouTube, and encouraged the members to attend the next training on April 1. **A motion was then made to approve the day’s agenda (Maloney/Fenton) and approved unanimously.**

**Public Comments:** Chair Robinson opened the meeting to public comments. First time attender Manny Leto, an associated of Linda Saul Sena (who spoke at a previous meeting’s public comments), encouraged the group to move forward with a historic survey of the West Tampa area. The last historic survey was in 1983. He specifically mentioned item # 7 on this agenda, and item #3 on last agenda, and stated that since 1983 some buildings are no longer there, and others may not have been historic but

now qualify. There was no further public comment and no time given for questions and answers due to time constraints. There were no other speakers for public comment and no virtual ones.

**Approval of February 27, 2024, CAC Meeting Minutes – *There was a motion (Sanchez/Ramirez) to approve the minutes with no changes. The vote was unanimously approved.***

## **Community Policing Updates**

**Tampa Police Department-** Lieutenant Neal addressed the CAC on the incidents the past month, which were mostly aggravated battery and auto burglaries. Five of the six burglaries were cars left unlocked. There were no firearms stolen and no arrests. Ramirez asked about a shooting at a convenience store on Cass and Albany. Officer Neal said that since there was no motive, injuries or suspects involved, it was not pursued. Sanchez asked about a domestic violence case and Robinson asked for an update on the memory card purchase for the security cameras supported at last month's meeting. Corp. Brown informed them that the cards had been purchased. Robinson thanked TPD for the response to a recent vehicle collision with telephone poles and that they were replaced with concrete ones instead of wood.

**Code Enforcement:** Officer Mars talked about the various tracks and how many incidents were reported and processed. Ramirez asked about the boundaries and number of reports south of I-75. Robinson mentioned that the vacant lot at 1925 Main St. where people are living in garbage cans and requested for that to be checked into. Officer Mars assured Robinson that he would turn the issue over to the director of Code Enforcement immediately.

## **Presentations**

### **A. Salcines Park Improvements**

Tony Monk from City Parks and Recreation Department introduced the team from Phinazee Consulting Services. He informed the CAC that they can deliver a very basic version only of the current design plans, which are at 60%. Additional elements like the water feature, a more decorative pergola, water fountain, etc. would cost more. The basic plans do include the urns on top of the fencing. There was a comment from Robinson about being able to double the initial estimate, and still be able to work with this contractor. Monk confirmed that was accurate. He handed the microphone to Phinazee Consulting. Angel Wood-Mark, President, facilitated the presentation and introduced the design team. The team introductions were made by Angel Wood-Mark, President and included: Rafael Faddul- PCCSI; John DelVitto; and Steven Green-Clearview Land Design; Jose Olvera and Christian Rivadeneira - Vinco Engineering; and Cragi McKenzie - Engineering Design Services- TEAM's Link.

There was a virtual presentation of plans and discussion of the pergola structure, landscaping, tree cells, mural and water features. Robinson felt this was good and that they could move forward with all the offered features. Afterwards there was a question-and-answer period. Fenton asked if the pergola design was full coverage. The response from Phinazee was that it is not fully covered and is primarily for shade. Mahoney asked if the tree cells offered any help with storm water control. The response was yes, indirectly. From a civil engineering standpoint, the water would be channeled away. Fenton expressed concern regarding the definite need for a water fountain for both people and dogs. There was also concern about the use of the pergola. Could it be rearranged for different events and genres? The design team noted that the furnishings are lockable/unlockable for removal or rearranging. Braccia asked where the items would be stored if moved.

Tony Monk said Parks and Recreation department would handle relocation and storage of the furnishings. Braccia commented on the pergola's height of 9 ft. and stated that most popup vendor tents and awnings are 9 ft. so they should consider increasing the height of the pergola. Monk mentioned that there would be 4 power hubs throughout the park, including a large lockable one. Braccia asked if irrigation was included and yes, it is. Ramirez pointed out that on the drawings some tables show only 3 chairs not 4. The design team said that was to allow for ADA compliance for wheelchairs. Ramirez liked the lighting features near the mural and asked about the height, which is 10 ft. Both Ramirez and Maloney expressed concern over the plant choices. They do not like the palm, as it offers little shade and prefer native plants and tree options. Ramirez felt that the fountains should be included in the final plan. Sanchez expressed concern about the pergola, that it won't be enough shade. Also, the 4ft fence is not high enough. Phinazee agreed that it was not enough shade. A study was done showing it was insufficient but can add laser cut metal additions to create more shade. Phinazee also showed detailed drawings of the fence in relation to the main gate design and how it worked with it. Robinson asked if the mural would be touched up and the answer was yes, either refurbished by the artist or with the addition of a brick base. He also asked if there would be Wi-Fi and Monk said that he would relay that request to the Technology and Innovation department. Mahoney reiterated her concern about the palms and the lack of shade.

***There was a motion (Maloney/Wilson) to move forward with the full design package for Salcines Park. The vote was passed unanimously.***

## **B. Rey Park Concept Design Options**

Tony Monk said that Phinazee Group will present three design concept options for Rey Park. Angel Wood-Mark, President, facilitated the presentation with members of the design team that were introduced earlier. There was a power point presentation of each of the three design concepts for Rey Park with graduated levels of improvements and costs. All three options are feasible within the current contract.

The CAC discussed all three park options and offered comments. Fenton asked about the costs of this park compared to other parks. Monk said costs vary and go up constantly. This is a neighborhood park not regional, so these costs are comparable to other parks of this size. Maloney commented about the design should respect what you have historically and not replace it. Williams asked about the mural and Wood commented that there was not a strong result from the survey they conducted on community preferences. Sanchez said she would like to see pickleball courts and more bathrooms. Pike said she would like to see more shade areas for children and sails installed over the playground area. Ramirez asked about the grand live oak tree near Cherry Street. Robinson suggested the building be efficient and to place AC equipment on the roof to save space and the weight room can be outside. He also shared the history of the 1986 mural. The park should be ADA compliant and accommodate those with special needs. Overall, there was a preference to Option 3 which included a new park building and more amenities. Robinson said that we have the opportunity within this contract to afford the best plan for this park which will include all of the amenities suggested, including pickleball courts.

***There was a motion (Wilson/Sanchez) to recommend the Option 3 concept design for Rey Park as presented at a total cost of \$ 3,901,789. The vote passed unanimously.***

## Staff Reports

- a. **Projects Team Report:** Melisa Martinez, CRA Senior Projects Supervisor referenced the Capital Projects report provided in the CAC agenda packet. She introduced Mr. Nick Bennett, who is the new project coordinator for the CRA team and will be assisting with projects in West Tampa. She highlighted the projects on this list and the CAC liked the new format.

There was a question about Freedom Park located at 2101 Main Street and the land use change initiated and supported by the CAC. Martinez will follow up. Fenton asked about the Parking Study that they just completed and were the recommendations being incorporated. Martinez said yes and they are already working on parking surrounding Rey Park. Robinson would like to review completed projects from 2015 to present. Sanchez mentioned the list that Jesus Nino would provide and would like to review again.

***There was a motion (Sanchez/Fenton) for staff to send Jesus Nino's project list along with the new list so they can compare the two. The vote was unanimously approved.***

- b. **CAC Meeting Date Survey Results** – Throrer thanked CAC members for taking the survey on the meeting date and presented the results. The date that was the most preferred was the third Tuesday of the month at the Hillsborough Education Foundation at 5:30 pm. The fourth Wednesday was second preferred option, but the location would need to be changed to Martin Luther King Park and the CAC said that the acoustics in that building are not good at all. There was discussion and then consensus about approving the new meeting date as the third Tuesday starting in May. Braccio was the only CAC member that expressed a conflict. ***There was a motion (Jones/Pike) to change the West Tampa CAC meeting date to the third Tuesday of the month. The vote passed unanimously.***

## Unfinished Business

### **West Tampa Overlay District**

Ms. Sanchez inquired about the status of the West Tampa Overlay District and the changes that were requested by the CAC. She would like to have a meeting or conversation with Deputy Administrator Abbye Feeley from the land development department. She reminded the CAC that funding was set aside in the FY24 budget to assist with this project. ***There was a motion (Sanchez/Fenton) to request an update from someone from the Land Development Department on the status of the changes submitted for the West Tampa Overlay District for the May CAC meeting. The vote was unanimously approved.***

### **Historic District Inventory**

The CAC discussed the important need to update the historic cultural resource inventory for West Tampa. The last time it was done was in 1983 so it's outdated. The inventory helped establish the West Tampa National Historic Landmark District but there is no local district in place for protect historic structures. Mr. Manny Leto spoke about the need to do this survey during public comment today and Ms. Linda Saul Sena spoke about it at last month's CAC meeting. The CAC members agreed that the study is a good idea to do to this study for historic preservation purposes. ***There was a motion (Robinson/Wilson) to request an updated historic district survey of the West Tampa CRA. The vote was unanimously approved.***

## **Announcements**

- A.** CAC Membership Orientation- The second one is next Monday, April 1 from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Entrepreneur Collaborative Center at 2101 East Palm Ave. and still time to register for it.
- B.** West Tampa Chamber of Commerce - Fenton mentioned a Corn Hole event on April 6 from 10 am-1 pm at Roche Surety- lot across from Bucs Stadium.
- C.** Vila Park-Maloney mentioned the Spring Fling event on Saturday, March 30 which entails an Easter Egg Hunt, Bake Sale, and Raffle.
- D.** Sandy Sanchez was congratulated for the naming of the new dog park in her honor at Vila Park.
- E.** Tina Young announced a new Parent Leadership Academy with free workshops.
- F.** Joe Robinson announced the rezoning notices he received since last month and will submit to staff for the record.
- G.** Next CAC Meeting: April 23, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., Hillsborough Education Foundation
- H.** Next CRA Board Meeting: April 11, 2024, at 9 a.m., Tampa City Hall

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.