

**CITY OF TAMPA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2004-2005
December 28, 2004**

Block Club: Area II

Neighborhoods: Palmetto Beach, Historic Ybor City, Belmont Heights/Jackson Heights, College Hill Community, Live Oak Square, South Nebraska, Woodland Terrace, and River Cove.

Boundaries: Sligh Avenue and Hillsborough River (north); Hillsborough Bay (south); 40th Street (east); 15th Street (west).

Contact Person: Ms. Loujean Williams, Chairperson
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Phone: 247-2004 (h)

Need and Recommendation 1. Multi-Purpose Recreation Center at 18th Avenue Park, located at 2902 N. 32nd Street.

Continued upgrading of this park can be done by constructing a multi-purpose recreation center to provide recreational/community services and educational services for both youth and adults. This facility is very much needed to provide activities for youth and adults, since the nearest facilities are Jackson Heights, Cuscaden, or Fair Oaks playgrounds. The facility should be constructed to accommodate various community programs and be equipped with table games, television/VCR, tables and chairs for tutorial classes, arts and crafts, exercise classes, etc.

There is an increase in the number of new single-family homes that have been built within close proximity of the park. There are numerous children that play in the streets. At the present time, there is not a whole lot that goes on at the small building that is already there. It has no air conditioning and nowhere for protection during inclement weather. This park has so much potential to be developed into a wonderful community asset for east Tampa.

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274 7726. The Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of developing a Recovery Action Plan (RAP) for the Parks and Recreation Department. The RAP looks at the elements within a park and determines if amenities are warranted. If the element is warranted, it will be placed as a priority in the next year's budget request. The RAP is scheduled to be completed by June 2004. The department is requesting in the FY05 Budget funds for a master plan to develop a playground activity center and a possible Arts Studio.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274 7730. Funding was approved in the FY05 Budget to develop a master plan for a CDBG eligible park. The department is presently developing a city construction project list of parks that are in need of a master plan.

Need and Recommendation 2. Additional Picnic Shelters at 18th Avenue Park, Located at 2902 N. 32nd Street.

Construction of two (2) additional picnic shelters with tables/benches and grills to accommodate families. There are many families and churches that use the one lone shelter that is currently at the park's location. By adding the additional shelters, more families, churches and schools would be able to use the facility.

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274 7726. The Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of developing a Recovery Action Plan (RAP) for the Parks and Recreation Facility. The RAP looks at the elements within a park and determines if amenities are warranted. If the element is warranted, it will be placed as a priority in the next year's budget request. The RAP is scheduled to be completed by June 2004. The department is requesting in the FY05 Budget funds for a master plan.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274 7730. If the element is warranted, it will be requested in the next year's budget process. The RAP funding was approved in the FY05 Budget to develop a Master Plan scheduled to be completed by December 2004.

Submitted by: **Ruth Fleming**
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Need and Recommendation 6. Enlargement of and Improvement to Woodland Terrace Park Recreation Center, Located at 6408 N. 32nd Street.

- a. Enlarge the rooms for Spanish, exercise, tutorial and dance classes, as well as, neighborhood meetings.**
- b. Enlarge existing covered patio or construct a new one.*
- c. Purchase a heavy metal cabinet with lock.*
- d. Purchase a copy machine.*
- e. Purchase a stove.*
- f. Improve lighting in the parking lot.*
- g. Install a walking track inside the park, near the edge of the park.*
- h. Improve landscaping.*

The neighborhood watch group is very large and when they meet, seating is very uncomfortable and non-accommodating, because the room is too small. Additional functions, such as classes at the park building, are very uncomfortable to hold. This is the only recreation center that does not have a stove and it is desperately needed. Elder citizens do not have a place to go for a walk, we need walking tracks inside the park and to secure our safety, more lights need to be installed in the parking lot.

Response to a.: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274 7726. The department is requesting funding in the FY05 Budget to enlarge the playground activity center.

Update to a.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274 7730. Funding was approved in the FY05 CDBG budget for the redesigning of the playground, relocation of the basketball court and expansion of the playground activity center.

Response to b. and-h.: The Parks and Recreation Department will respond in the Non Eligible Community Needs.

Submitted by: **Jeraldine Williams Smith**
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Need and Recommendation 7. Convert Historic Houses in East Ybor Historic Neighborhood.

We are requesting to convert two houses, located at approximately 2401 E. 11th Avenue and 2403 E. 11th Avenue for community use in the East Ybor Historic Neighborhood. The houses can be used as satellites for the Hillsborough County Library. The Florida Department of Transportation is deeding the two houses to the City of Tampa (The houses are not numbered, therefore, we are presuming the addresses are about 2401 and 2403 E. 11th Avenue).

At the first house, we want to have the following:

- 1. A library reading room.**
- 2. A computer/classroom that would house:**
 - a. Neighborhood computer classes.**
 - b. E-mail, Internet.**
 - c. After-school homework center.**
 - d. A GED center for under-educated adults.**
 - e. Extension service programs/classes on horticulture, quilt making, book writing, home economics, and baby-sitting certification.**

For the second house, we envision an archive to accommodate the volumes of historical writings, photographs, and videos of our neighborhood. We are unique in having a past that reflects

racial inclusiveness. That venue would double as a community meeting place and activity center, including social receptions.

It is also requested to design historically authentic gardens in the rear of two lots abutting the backs of the historic houses.

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274 7726. If the properties are able to be acquired by the City and are able to be rehabilitated for the intent the community wants, then the department will work with the community in developing programs to meet the needs of the community (i.e. Authentic gardens, extension programs, and after school programs).

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274 7730. As of the date of this report, the properties have not been purchased by the city.

Response: From Stuart Campbell, Urban Planner, Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD), 274 8228. I have forwarded this to Annie Hart with the Historic Preservation group and when I receive her response, I will provide information in the updated responses. As far as Housing and Community Development comments, I offer the following:

In order to adequately assess this proposed project, the organization (either for profit or non profit) would need to complete a CDBG application and submit the request for consideration. Factors to be considered are project specific, i.e. total project cost, cost of rehabilitation, amount of subsidy dollars requested, availability of funding, location of project and the status of the organization making the request.

An application has been sent to the contact person for this Block Club Area. Please keep in mind the city does not award CDBG funds to neighborhood organizations.

Update: From Annie Hart, Historic Preservation Manager, Business and Housing Development, 274 8692. The correct addresses for the two properties are 2551 and 2553 East 11th Avenue. The locations are contributing structures in the Ybor City Local Historic District. Therefore, they would be required to follow the Ybor City Design Guidelines and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties on which the design guidelines are based. These guidelines are required whether CDBG funds were used or not because the properties are in a local historic district.

For questions or additional information regarding the Ybor City Historic District, please call Ron Vila or Del Acosta at 813 274 8920.

Need and Recommendation 8. Create Recreational Green Space for Adults.

When Interstate-4 expands in our neighborhood, E. 13th Avenue will be closed off as a public thoroughfare. The area will be fenced, landscaped and lighted. We want to provide a green

space for our adult neighbors to relax, and/or exercise (jog, walk, and skate). The City of Tampa will maintain that right-of-way. We envision inserting park benches and trash containers along with planned landscape and lights.

We desire to positively and attractively develop our neighborhood as our contribution to the strategy of the Tampa Police and Department of Code Enforcement to enhance the area. Together we want to drive out the criminal element that includes drug sellers, prostitutes, and a variety of criminals.

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274 7726. The department will work with FDOT to consider creating a park area. This area is included in a previous agreement and if this area is appropriate we will work with FDOT in determining if this sort of use is within the bounds of the agreement. The I 4 improvements will be completed in 3 or 4 years. If appropriate, funding will be needed to construct and maintain the park. If appropriate the department will work with the community in developing a greenway park.

Need and Recommendation 9. Create a Playground in the East Ybor Historic Neighborhood.

We are requesting a playground at N. 26th Street, between E. 11th and E. 12th Avenues, to include the following:

- a. Design beams (a ledge or shoulder along side a paved road – 26th Street) and barriers (to keep vehicles out of the play area).
- b. Play equipment for young children – domed monkey bars; a 4-square or chess slab; a half-court basketball space; swings; tetherball; stake and horseshoe plot.
- c. A covered rectangular gazebo with grills on the east and west sides for picnic/game area.
- d. Lighting, landscaping, and water fountains.

The East Ybor Neighborhood has homes and apartments with infants-to-teens. There is no recreational facility in the neighborhood. Safety issues: children play tetherball on the stop sign, teens play basketball with a crate attached to a utility pole. They use balled paper, shaped with tape, as a basketball. Children play “snowbird” by lying in the street until the last second before a vehicle hits them.

Response to a-d: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274 7726. The department has completed a design for a playground at 26th and 12th Avenue and vehicle control. The design included a playground, ½ court basketball court, fencing, landscaping, and other ancillary equipment. Project will be included in the departments FY05 Budget request.

Update to a.-d.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274 7730. The project received \$207,725 in the FY05 CDBG Budget.

Need and Recommendation 10. Develop a Green Way Park in the FDOT right-of-way.

A park is being requested where E. 13th Avenue will be discontinued, along with planned I-4 landscape and lights. A developed green way park will accomplish the following goals:

- a. Provide adults with a recreational outlet.**
- b. Reduce personal violence.**
- c. Generate pride in the neighborhood.**

Response to a.-c.: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274 7726. The department will work with FDOT to consider creating a park area. This area is included in a previous agreement and if this area is appropriate we will work with FDOT in determining if this sort of use is within the bounds of the agreement. The I 4 improvements will be completed in 3 or 4 years. If appropriate, funding will be needed to construct and maintain the park and the department will work with the community in developing a greenway park.

Need and Recommendation 11. Sidewalks requested in the East Ybor Historic.

Sidewalks are being requested on at least one side of the street, from points where the existing ones stop, to the boundaries to the east. Most of the streets do not have sidewalks, which pose a great safety issue. Children and adults will benefit, as well as tourists and visitors.

Response: From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635 3421. Sidewalks appear to be easily constructable. However, there appears to be very low pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Of the streets in this area of the district only 4th and 5th Avenues are through streets. These two streets should be considered for extending sidewalks to 26th Street. This would require about 2 blocks of sidewalk on 5th and 1 block on 4th. The sidewalks along 8th and 10th Avenues should also be considered for extension to the commercial property to the east due to the potential for commercial traffic at certain periods. This would require about 3.25 blocks of sidewalks on 8th and 4 blocks on 10th.

Update: From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635 3421. The following locations will be added to our updated consideration for future construction list – 4th Avenue from 24th Street to 26th Street, 5th Avenue from 23rd Street to 26th Street, 8th Avenue from 24th Street to 28th Street, and 10th Avenue from 22nd Street to 28th Street. Three of the above locations – 5th Avenue, 8th Avenue, and 10th Avenue have been tentatively selected for construction under next year's (2005) contract.

Need and Recommendation 13. Sidewalk Completion Requested.

- a. On E. 8th and 9th Avenues, sidewalks have been installed to about N. 24th Street.**
- b. On E. 12th Avenue, the sidewalk is laid in spots from N. 22nd to N. 23rd Streets.**

Response to a.: From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635 3421. It would require approximately 1 block of new sidewalk along 8th and 2.5 blocks on 9th to provide continuous sidewalk to 26th Street. Traffic volume does not necessarily warrant new sidewalk at this time. This location will be added to the sidewalk list for future consideration.

Update to a.: From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635 3421. East 9th Avenue from 22nd Street to 26th Street will be added to our updated consideration for future construction list. East 8th Avenue is tentatively selected for construction under next year's contract, and extended to 28th Street.

Response to b.: From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635 3421. Traffic volume on this area of 12th Avenue does not warrant new sidewalk at this time. This location will be added to the sidewalk list for future consideration.

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