

Community Kick-off & Visioning Summary

On June 7, 2007, a public meeting was held to kick off the Central Park CRA Strategic Plan. Held at the Booker T. Washington Elementary School, over 40 members of the community attended the evening meeting, which was led jointly by Michael Hatchett of the Tampa Department of Urban and Economic Development and the planning team of EDAW.



The meeting gave community members the opportunity to meet the project team, learn more about the Strategic Plan and what the city hopes to accomplish by creating it, and to participate in developing a vision for the planning process.

After being introduced to the plan and the project team, attendees were separated into two break-out groups for brainstorming about opportunities and challenges facing the Central Park community. Participants were then asked to imagine what a news headline in 2027 might say about the community. Below are the results of the visioning session:

Group 1 Visioning Session:

Community Strengths:

- Accessibility
- People

- Land value
- Variety—mix of uses
- Historic
- Strong sense of community
- Existing businesses
- Port jobs

Community Challenges:

- Protect businesses in the community
- Adverse impact of the demolition activity

Other concerns:

- Need/want fair market value for those who wish to relocate their business
- Do not prevent/block Scott St. access/exit from interstate
- Need for cultural sensitivity
 - Stronger communication will build trust

Opportunities:

- Tap construction opportunities
 - Employment
- Grocery store
- Neighborhood retail
 - Fine restaurant
- Cultural activities
- Where you go, the history will be alive/thrive
- Perry Harvey Park
 - Programs and events
- Support density
 - Must be safe environment
 - Affordable
 - Balance of income levels
 - Workforce
- Expanded outreach:
 - Church announcements
 - WTMP radio
- Protection of those who wish to stay (residents and businesses)

Central Park Community 2027 Headline

- Cultural Park Becomes Reality for All
- Clean and Drug Free
- Central Park Community Thrives
- Diverse, Distinct, Thriving
- Central Park is Beautiful for All People
- Mixed; Diversity Rules; All Economic Groups; Services Support Groups
- Central Park Continues to Rise to the top with Booming Businesses
- Reconstruct a Community in the Central Park Vicinity Where There Will Show No Difference of Communities
- Growing with the City in a Way We Have Not Grown, Making a Difference in a Positive Way
- The All Together Community
- Family Friendly

Group 2 participants expressed the following ideas for their vision of Central Park.

Group 2 Visioning Session:

Community Vision:

- African-American
- Preserve historic homes and buildings
- New housing should be affordable
- Jobs and job training
- Education
- Restoration of historic housing
- Financial assistance for existing businesses
- Small business training for new businesses
- Redevelopment should capture the spirit of the SCRUB (scale)
- Design (African American and Minority Business Enterprise) Committee
- Small business resource center
- Develop central park to be unique apart from Ybor City

Central Park Community 2027 Headline:

- Central Park NY?...No, the Real Central Park in Tampa

- Central Park Community Top Attraction in Tampa
- African American Family, Business, and Cultural Renaissance
- Central Park Community Alive and Well!!
- Tampa Community Development Becomes Model of Success for Community
- New Central Park Village A Leader in Community Re-Engineering
- St. Peter Claver School Reaches 1,000 Enrollment and Breaks Ground for its Vocational Training Wing
- Historic Central Avenue District: Music and Culture
- Central Park a Shining example of Economic Stability and Community Connectivity
- Central Ave Reborn
- Central Park Renaissance
- Central Park Village is Named Number 1 Model Community in US

The June 7th session concluded with a representative from each group reporting their group comments to the full audience. Many attendees stayed well after the session concluded and shared additional ideas and concerns with the planning team.

Community participants were reminded that the next meeting would take place in mid-August and to stay involved with the planning effort by tracking progress on the website or by contacting Michael Hatchett with the Urban Economic Development office.

Phone: 813.274.7972

Project Website:

http://www.tampagov.net/dept_economic_and_urban_development/CRA/central_park