



## CITY OF SARASOTA BOARD/COMMITTEE ANNUAL BOARD REPORT

**Board Name:** Newtown Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board

**Report Period:** Jan 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2023

**City Department and Board Liaison:** Office of Economic Development, Wayne R. Applebee

BOARD MEMBER NAME	DATE MEMBER JOINED BOARD	# OF 2023 MTGS. FOR MEMBER	MTGS ATTENDED	% OF MTGS ATTENDED
Alexandra Chau	May 2018	7	6	86%
Richard Harris	June 2021	7	7	100%
Jesse Hubbard	June 2021	7	6	86%
Rachel Shelley	December 2021	7	6	86%
Carlos Yancy	January 2023	7	7	100%

### **Attendance Comments:**

Regular Meetings were held on 1/12/2023, 3/9/2023, 5/11/2023, 07/13/2023, 9/14/2023 and 11/7/2023. There was a special meeting held on 6/13/2023.

### **Purpose of the Board:**

To serve as the primary source of community input to the Agency (Community Redevelopment Agency/City Commission) and to the Agency staff. The board functions are advisory only and are to assist with the public input in the local redevelopment planning process. The purposes below are outlined in Resolution 22R-3085 to include:

- 1) To review proposed public-private redevelopment projects and recommend to the Agency whether financial or other assistance should be provided to any such project;
- 2) To review the proposed annual work program and make recommendations to the Agency concerning such program, recommend project priorities to the Agency, recommend incentives to further the redevelopment efforts and carry out and effectuate the proposed provisions of the Redevelopment Act;
- 3) To develop, review and make recommendations concerning Requests for Proposals for redevelopment projects in the community redevelopment area;
- 4) To consider matters referred to the Advisory Board by the Agency; and,
- 5) To receive comments from members of the public interested in redevelopment of the Redevelopment Area and to report such information to the Agency.

### **Community Need being met by Operation of this Board:**

The Newtown CRA Advisory Board (NCRAAB) serves the community by providing a vehicle for public input, and through its decisions and recommendations to the CRA Board consistent with the City's Newtown Redevelopment Plan for the public, community proposed and private development projects.

**Are there any other City Boards which could serve this function? (If yes, please explain)**

No

**Board Accomplishments:**

For fiscal year 2023, the Board accomplished the following: Provided funding for the demolition of 1846 Dr. MLK Jr. Way to remove slum and blight and provide for redevelopment opportunities on the site, Supported the sale of a city-owned property to achieve a full-service bank on Dr. MLK Jr. Way and the Marian Anderson Brownfield site both goals of the NCRA Redevelopment Plan; Provided funding to Fredd “Glossie” Atkins Park for lighting improvements; Explored, but ultimately declined to pursue, an expanded boundary of the district; Completed the initial pilot of the Home Beautification program by painting and installing a lamppost at 10 homes; Implemented the Newtown Sidewalk Improvement program by funding and completing surveying and initiated design; Launched initial planning for a Visioning project for the Dr. MLK Jr. Way Commercial Corridor; Provided funding for Newtown youth to participate in a summer coding camp at State College of Florida and RL Taylor Summer program; Developed a pilot mini-grant program for non-profits that support initiatives of the NCRA Redevelopment Plan to be funded in FY24-25; Approved funding for two businesses for infrastructure improvements through the Newtown CRA Business Assistance Grant Program; Appraised a parcel of land for a ground lease for a small business incubator program; and, Provided funding for holiday decorations for Amayllis Park Neighborhood Association.

**Board Work Plan:**

- Implement activities outlined in the approved Newtown Redevelopment Plan including, but not limited to:
  - Complete design of the Newtown Sidewalk Improvement Program
  - Strengthen Community leadership and engagement to launch a Visioning Project for the Dr. MLK Jr. Way Commercial Corridor
  - Support the redevelopment of the Marian Anderson property and other targeted parcels on Dr. MLK Jr. Way.
  - Outreach and marketing for the Business Assistance Grant Program
  - Identify a site for a congregate location for Food Trucks and small business incubator
  - Complete the HomeFront Beautification Program targeting 25 additional residential homes
  - Collaborate with Legal Aid of Manasota to provide a Home Title Clearance Program
  - Engage with Parks and Recreation regarding Dr. MLK Park improvements
- Make recommendations to the Community Redevelopment Agency Board regarding re-development activities within the Newtown Community Redevelopment Agency District.
- Review and award Business Assistance Grant applications
- Serve as the primary source for community input regarding public-private redevelopment

**Reporting Specific to F.S. 163.371:**

163.371(2)(a) The Most Recent Audit may be located at:

<https://www.sarasotafl.gov/government/financial-administration>

163.371(2)(b)(1) Total number of projects started and completed and the estimated cost:

Answer: 10, see below.

1) Demolition of 1846 Dr. MLK Jr. Way, \$9,350

- 2) Sale of a city-owned property to achieve a full-service bank on Dr. MLK Jr. Way, \$0 (City of Sarasota, Office of Housing and Community Development received \$235,000 for the sale of the property.)
- 3) Fredd “Glossie” Atkins Park lighting improvements, \$50,722
- 4) HomeFront Beautification Program painting and installing a lamppost at 10 homes, \$23,558
- 5) Newtown Sidewalk Improvement Program surveying, \$90,540
- 6) Summer Coding Camp at State College of Florida, \$598
- 7) Summer camp at RL Taylor, \$24,000
- 8) Business Assistance Grant Program, \$21,032
- 9) Ground Lease Appraisal Report, \$1,500
- 10) Dr. MLK Jr. Way Holiday Décor, \$11,835

163.371(2)(b)(2) Total Expenditures from the Redevelopment Trust Fund

Answer: \$533,585

163.371(2)(b)(3) Original assessed real property within the Community Redevelopment Agency’s area of authority as of the day the agency was created.

Answer: \$176,044,120, reset in 2017 to \$143,659,391

163.371(2)(b)(4) Total assessed real property within the boundaries of the Community Redevelopment Agency as of January 1 of the reporting year.

Answer: \$273,455,012

163.371(2)(b)(5) Total amount expended for affordable housing for low-income and middle-income residents.

Answer: \$23,558

163.371(2)(b)(5)(c) Summary indicating to what extent, if any, the Community Redevelopment Agency has achieved the goals set out in its Community Redevelopment Plan.

Answer: The following sections were identified in the Newtown Redevelopment Plan as it’s goals between 2021-2024:

Section 7.2 Newtown Pedestrian Sidewalks – completed planning and currently in design phase.

Section 3.2 Miss Susie’s Kitchen – this goal is unable to be achieved due to the non-profit’s withdrawal from the project after the founder’s death and the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Section 4.2 Leonard Reid House Relocation & Renovation – project has been completed and operations have been assumed by the Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition.

Section 3.2 Acquisition – the Newtown CRA has not purchased any property to date.

Section 5.2 Marion Anderson Site Development – Completed, the site is currently under a purchase and sale agreement, a Brownfield Site Rehabilitation Agreement has been approved by FDEP and the developer is planning a office complex, medical clinic and light industrial use on the site.

Section 4.3 CRA Website Update, Social Media & Communications – this goal is pending and anticipated to be funded in the next Fiscal Year.

Section 3.3 Business Attraction and Retention – this goal is in process and on-going, the Agency has budgeted funding for a Visioning project in 2024 that will assist in further advancing this goal.

Section 6.3 Special Event Zoning – this goal is partial completed by the Agency assisting and funding three new food truck operators in the District. The Agency continues to explore a parcel of land to co-locate the food trucks as a destination.

Section 4.2 Newtown Cultural Arts & History Center - project has been partial completed by relocating the Leonard Reid House and turning operations of the History Center to the Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition (SAACC). The City and SAACC are negotiating additional city land for a new center to be built next to the Leonard Reid House.

Section 4.2 Historic District Designation – this goal has been completed by submission of 692 contributing structures to be designated on the National Register of Historic Places. The designation has been approved at the state level and is awaiting final approval at the federal level.

Section 9.3 Boundary Expansion – this goal is currently on hold. The Agency analyzed the possibility of boundary expansion but has determined it is not desirable at this time.

Section 3.2 North Trail Economic Development Plan – the goal is partially competed through pending zoning amendments and new projects being developed along the North Trail. Additional work is required to coalesce the CRA plan with the North Trail Plan.

Section 6.2 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way Master Plan – the goal is in progress by the launch of the MLK Commercial Corridor Visioning Project. Zoning changes have not occurred as community support for them has not come to fruition currently.