



CITY OF SARASOTA BOARD/COMMITTEE ANNUAL BOARD REPORT

Board Name: Newtown Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board

Report Period: Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024

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

BOARD MEMBER NAME	DATE MEMBER JOINED BOARD	# OF 2024 MTGS. FOR MEMBER	MTGS ATTENDED	% OF MTGS ATTENDED
Alexandra Chau	May 2018	6	6	100%
Richard Harris	June 2021	6	6	100%
Jessie Hubbard	June 2021	6	3	50%
Rachel Shelley	December 2021	6	6	100%
Carlos Yancy	January 2023	6	6	100%

Attendance Comments:

Regular Meetings were held on 1/11/2024, 3/6/2024, 5/9/2024, 07/11/2024, 9/12/2024 and 11/14/2024. Hubbard's absences were approved for medical reasons.

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 2024, the Board accomplished the following: Approved funding for three businesses for infrastructure improvements through the Newtown CRA Business Assistance Grant program; completed exterior painting and lampposts for 10 homes through the Newtown Homefront Beautification Program; Completed design work for the Newtown Sidewalk Improvement Program; Participated in the US-Economic Development Administration's Equity Impact Investment Program with Newtown Business Council; Established dedicated funding for a redevelopment project on Dr. MLK Jr. Way; Provided funding to two non-profit organizations that focus on Business/Entrepreneur Development and two non-profit organizations that focus on Education/Youth Development; Established a Cultural Event Grant Program as outlined in the CRA plan and approved the first application; Funded a Marketing and Branding program for the Newtown CRA and solicited services from AT-Large to launch the program in 2025; Funded Newtown youth to participate in the summer camp program at RL Taylor; participated in funding the Street Team program for Dr. MLK Jr. Way; completed engineering design for electrical infrastructure for the west side of Dr. MLK Jr. Way; and provided Holiday lighting in Newtown, which for the first time matched downtown.

Board Work Plan:

- Implement activities outlined in the approved Newtown Redevelopment Plan including, but not limited to:
 - Complete construction of the Newtown Sidewalk Improvement Program
 - Launch a marketing, branding and new website for the Newtown CRA
 - Hold a celebration event in recognition of Newtown's Designation on the National Register of Historic Places
 - Complete construction of the electric infrastructure for Dr. MLK Jr. Way
 - Strengthening 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, Non-Profit Mini-Grant and Cultural Event 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: 8, see below.

1) Martin Luther King Jr/Orange Ave Redevelopment (Leonard Reid House), \$7,087

- 2) Homefront Title Clearance Program, \$600
- 3) Fredd “Glossie” Atkins Park lighting improvements, \$30,345
- 4) HomeFront Beautification Program painting and installing a lamppost at 10 homes, \$25,118
- 5) Newtown Sidewalk Improvement Program surveying, \$90,787
- 6) Summer camp at RL Taylor, \$24,000
- 7) Business Assistance Grant Program, \$8,475
- 8) Dr. MLK Jr. Way Holiday Décor, \$12,177

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

Answer: \$284,913

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: \$313,797,537

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

Answer: \$25,118

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 3.2 Acquisition – the Newtown CRA has not purchased any property to date. However, land purchase earlier by the Newtown CRA has been made available for a future Cultural Arts and History Center.

Section 3.2 North Trail Economic Development Plan – the goal is partially competed through newly approved 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 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 3.3 Business Attraction and Retention – this goal is in process and on-going, the Agency has budgeted funding for a Visioning project, MLK Commercial Corridor Redevelopment Initiative and a Business Assistance Grant Program that will assist in further advancing this goal.

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 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 have finalized negotiation for 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 Newtown being designated on the National Register of Historic Places by the Federal Government. A community celebration event is being planned for 2025.

Section 4.3 CRA Website Update, Social Media & Communications – this goal currently in implementation, a contract has been executed with a marketing firm and current branding, marketing and website are in design.

Section 4.3 Newtown Arts District – this goal is currently in progress with a branding and marketing initiative, selection of a community mural installation, identification of partnering art organizations and alignment with the Public Art Plan.

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 an office complex, medical clinic and light industrial use on the site.

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 through a partnership with the Newtown Business Council. The CRA has been supporting efforts by the Newtown Business Council to recommend Zoning changes the community would support.

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 7.2 Newtown Pedestrian Sidewalks – completed planning, surveying and currently in the final design phase.

Section 7.2 Newtown Lighting – began design for electrical infrastructure improvements for lampposts on the west side of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

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.