



Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners 2019 Citizens Advisory Committee

Friday, May 24th, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Hillsborough County Center
24th Floor Conference Room 2416W
601 E. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33602

A G E N D A

8:30 a.m.	Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Introductions	Chair Johnson
8:35 a.m.	Public Comment # 1	Chair Johnson
8:40 a.m.	Review of Meeting Recap	CAC
8:45 a.m.	Review of Dr. Eisenberg Meeting Summary	CAC
9:15 a.m.	Discussion of Work Plan Creation	CAC
10:40 a.m.	Public Comment # 2	Chair Johnson
10:45 a.m.	Adjournment	CAC

Next Regular CAC Meeting:

Friday, June 28th, 2019

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., County Center, 24th Floor Conference Room 2416W

Recap of the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting March 22, 2019

The March 22, 2019 Hillsborough County Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting was called to order by Chair Kay Doughty at 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Chair Kay Doughty, Vice Chair Tu Mai, Barbara Aderhold, Noelle Licor, Eric Johnson, Marlin Anderson, Joseph Odda, Joseph Pullara, Wendell Duggins and Jen McDonald.

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Introductions: The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

Public Comment: David Coleman spoke regarding a concern he has in his neighborhood, on 41st Street. This is a busy street and people drive by at high speeds. There have been several pedestrian deaths and he feels that it has not been resolved. He feels that in other areas of Tampa where this has happened, that the issue is quickly taken care of. He also spoke regarding Chad Chronister conducting his own investigation.

New Member: Ms. Licor introduced herself to the CAC.

Review of Meeting Recap: Ms. McDonald stated that the questions from the CAC regarding the survey, who was conducting the survey and how, should be added to the recap. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to approve the January 25, 2019 CAC meeting recap as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pullara. *The motion carried unanimously.*

The agenda items were moved to hold 2019 Elections next.

2019 Elections: Mr. Anderson requested a 30 second presentation on why the nominated members wanted to be elected.

For Chair: Kay Doughty and Eric Johnson

For Vice Chair: Jen McDonald

New Chair: Eric Johnson

New Vice Chair: Jen McDonald

Workshop on CAC Mission and Work: Presentation by Dean Eisenberg from the University of South Florida.

There was discussion on how the Committee works. The group needs to develop a consensus on what the CAC's role is. Ms. Aderhold stated that when she joined the CAC all of the meeting were just people coming in and speaking. Mr. Johnson state that he can't just go to Administration and say he wants certain things to happen. Mr. Anderson doesn't just want to listen to presentations, but wants to do something. Mr. Odda stated that he wants more content on the agenda. He also questioned what action should the CAC take after the discussion of an issue. Mr. Johnson suggested running the meeting similar to how the BOCC does it. Mr. Eisenberg suggested for the CAC to maybe have a couple of things to focus on. Ms. Aderhold questioned how the CAC should take care of public comment. Mr. Eisenberg discussed what are the real actions the CAC can take. Mr. Anderson suggested having a operating manual for when the new members start. The members discussed why they agreed to serve on the CAC. Ms. Cardenas went over the

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Resolution from 1986, it was created in 1973 and between 1973 and 1986, it continued to exist. The Mission Statement has not changed that much in the 33 years. The By-Laws are almost word for word as well as the Mission Statement. Mr. Johnson suggested having a review of the By-Laws and possibly making some changes to make them more modern, and for there also to be a review on the Resolution. Ms. McDonald suggested having a different goal each year. Mr. Eisenberg asked why does the CAC exist, is it a sounding board is it to present feedback? He stated that it is not just a sounding board, but actual work is being done. Mr. Johnson stated to have dialogue between the CAC and the BOCC. To have more of a relationship with the BOCC. Mr. Odda suggested doing a re-design. Mr. Eisenberg stated that there should be a way to close the loop on different items. There was recommendation to create a sub-group to look this over.

Review and Approval of Update to BOCC: This item is being pushed to next meeting.

Mr. Johnson suggested to come back next month with three or four ideas of goals. Mr. Eisenberg will provide a summary of this before the next meeting.

Public Comment: None

Ms. Aderhold suggested the group should ask what to look at for goals and how specific they should be. Mr. Johnson stated they have to be broad. Ms. McDonald stated to establish the operation of the CAC. Mr. Anderson suggested to have orientation for new members.

Other Business: None.

A motion was made by Mr. Pullara to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Aderhold. Meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

TO: Citizens Advisory Committee
FR: Eric M. Eisenberg, PhD
RE: Summary of March 22 facilitated discussion and proposed next steps
DT: May 19, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and to help guide a conversation about the mission, charge, and future work of the CAC. As I understand it, I was asked to attend due to some uncertainty and at times frustration on the part of the committee regarding its charge and direction. I facilitated what I believe was a constructive dialogue about your future work and this memo describes our discussion and my personal observations and suggestions.

Reasons for Joining

We began the meeting with each CAC member being asked to recall and recount the reasons why they had agreed to serve on the committee. The purpose of this activity was to remind the members of the passions they brought to the work and to capture the range of member motivations. The following reasons were mentioned:

- Community planning and the need to control sprawl
- Deeper involvement in government issues more generally
- Looking for a new way to make a positive difference in the community
- Interest in development and civil engineering
- Helping to get things done on behalf of the citizenry
- Focus on issues affecting quality of life for the elderly
- Applying corporate skills to improving the community
- Applying neighborhood leadership skills to the county as a whole
- Preservation of Florida heritage and a way of life

Founding Documents

While all of these motivations are worth pursuing, what is less clear is the *precise* role of the CAC in doing so. Consequently, our next activity was a careful reading of the original resolution that created the CAC in 1986. In addition to addressing numerous operational issues (number of members, terms, etc.), the substantive charge at the time was that the CAC “*will act in an advisory capacity to the Board on issues of general application and upon issues otherwise specified by the board.*”

Following the passing of the resolution, CAC Bylaws were adopted that—again in addition to numerous operational details—further specified the charge. In Article I, Section 2 of the bylaws, it states that the purposes and scope of the activities of this Committee shall be the following:

- A. To review and evaluate County issues as requested by the Board of County Commissioners or by the County Administrator.*
- B. To initiate proposals and forward them to the Board of County Commissioners as recommendations for action.*

The ensuing discussion revealed there to be significant room for interpretation of the direction offered by these founding documents. Moreover, members offered numerous examples of past actions by the CAC which either succeeded or failed as justification for the need for a more focused definition of purpose.

In the past, the CAC has sometimes “initiated proposals” which did not correspond to items on the BOCC or County Administration agenda and which consequently did not result in positive action. Closer alignment between the parties will likely result in greater success in making a difference for the community. Furthermore, CAC members expressed that they do not want to see their role limited to that of a sounding board. They strive to have their input on pressing county issues taken seriously and used by the County administration and the BOCC.

It was also discussed that once the CAC has established a clearer purpose there may be value in revising the CAC bylaws.

Moving Forward

While not everyone was in agreement, the consensus of the group was that going forward the CAC ought to adopt something like the following list of guiding principles:

- Set annual goals; the CAC should identify a *limited number of specific items to address each year and pursue them using the principles of good project management*, with timelines and regular progress reporting.
- Members should work in *good faith partnership with the BOCC and the County Administration* to identify issues of shared interest and to provide candid input, critique, recommendations and advice (and not act as a watchdog or seek to provide oversight)
- Members act to represent *themselves, their commissioner and their unique experience* (which is why they were selected) not any particular interest group

This is a unique time in the history of Hillsborough County inasmuch as a two-year budget is being developed that seeks to address the *general challenge of fiscal sustainability along with some of the most challenging issues affective all citizens*. At the same time, results of a *citizen survey* regarding the county is being completed and the data is being compiled. This is an opportune time for the CAC to weight in to *amplify the voice of the citizen and to echo, endorse or critique various proposed actions*. In this spirit, some potential items that the CAC might choose to address include:

- County parks master plan
- Childrens' services Blue Ribbon Committee final recommendations
- Results of the county citizen survey available in June
- Selected items from the two-year budget going forward in July

I appreciate the opportunity to help this important committee and hope that these suggestions will assist you in making a positive difference in our community.