

City of Clearwater

*Main Library - Council Chambers
100 N. Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33755*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

9:00 AM

Special Meeting

Main Library - Council Chambers

Neighborhood and Affordable Housing Advisory Board

Roll Call

Present - Chair Robyn Fiel, Board Member Linda Byars, Board Member Christine Bond, Board Member Frank Cornier, and Board Member Charessa Doty

Absent - Vice Chair Lindsay Dicus-Harrison

Also Present - Dylan Mayeux – Economic Development & Housing Real Estate Coordinator and Dani DeBois- City Clerk Specialist

1. Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approve the November 18, 2025, NAHAB Meeting Minutes.

Board Member Byars moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2025 Neighborhood and Affordable Housing Advisory Board Meeting as submitted in written summation. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard Regarding Items Not on the Agenda: None

4. New Business Items

4.1 Kick off discussion regarding the 2026 Annual Action Plan.

Economic Development & Housing Real Estate Coordinator Dylan Mayeux provided an overview of the timeline and process for developing the 2026 Annual Action Plan. He noted that the department is beginning the planning process now, with the full plan due in August of this year.

4.2 Presentation by Applicants for grant funding.

Representatives from the following organizations reviewed their funding requests: Housing and Education Alliance, Inc., Homeless Emergency Project (HEP), Metropolitan Ministries, Hope Villages of America, Tampa Bay Community Development Corporation dba Suncoast Housing Connections, WestCare GulfCoast Florida, Inc., Directions for Mental Health, Inc. dba Directions for Living, St. Vincent de Paul, Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc., Learning Independence for Tomorrow, Inc., Prospera Initiatives, Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc., and the InterCultural Advocacy Institute.

In response to questions, Housing and Education Alliance

representative Rhea Straker Jumbs said the request of \$50,000 would support the Clearwater Housing Stability and Homeowning Initiative, providing homebuyer education and counseling in both English and Spanish. Homeless Emergency Project representatives Katerina Gerakios-Siren and Jeff Siachee said their first request of \$60,000 would support emergency shelter courtyard and kitchen upgrades with a 25% match, and their second request of \$150,000 would fund parking lot improvements for the new consolidated Dental and Wellness Clinic location. Mr. Siachee said Phase One is expected to begin in May and be completed in the fall. Metropolitan Ministries representatives Candace Wiant and Ms. Orendorl said the NeighborHOPE program provides mobile case management services in partnership with United Way. Ms. Orendorl said financial assistance includes rent, utilities, and mortgage support. Hope Villages of America representative Belinda Eckton-McAbee said the request would fund shelter window replacement and a Supervisor of Case Management position, she said the average stay is 40-45 days, with a 45 day limit. Tampa Bay Community Development Corporation representatives Sean McKenna and Freea Pheeny said their request would support homebuyer education and counseling as well as a purchase assistance program. WestCare GulfCoast representatives Rhonda Lieberman and David Hassett said their request is for salary assistance for a case manager. Directions for Mental Health representatives Melika Matthew and Chris Johnson said their request of \$161,727.50 would fund the Team Member Support and Collaboration Space Renovation Project at the DFL Clearwater Center. St. Vincent de Paul representative Jerry Gehrand said their request would support the Community Kitchen by providing hygiene items, clothing, bus passes, and assist with job applications. Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services representative Todd McLair said their request would support homebuyer education, counseling, and down payment assistance. Jessica Thompson spoke regarding the Down Payment Assistance Program. Learning Independence for Tomorrow representative Julie Erecher said the organization recently assumed operations of the former YMCA facility and needs to update security and safety systems for students. Prospera representative Celia Osain said their request would support technical assistance for low to moderate income businesses. Gulfcoast Legal Services representative Gabriella Holland said their request would support housing legal services for families, seniors, and victims of crime. InterCultural Advocacy Institute representative Nikka Julian said their request would support the Victim Advocacy and Support Services Program and flooring replacement. No representative from Upwards (WeeCare, Inc.) was present.

4.3

Discuss Performance of Subrecipients of the City of Clearwater's Community Development Programs.

Mr. Mayeux provided an update on the status of agreements with subrecipients, explaining that several agreements have experienced delays due to the recent federal government shutdown, which temporarily slowed processing and approvals.

5. Director's Report

Mr. Mayeux said that the property at 1718 N. Betty Lane, associated with HEP, receiving \$1.391 million in funding approved by City Council

6. Board Members to be Heard: None

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Attest:

Chair
Neighborhood & Affordable Housing Advisory Board

City Clerk Specialist