



South Seminole Heights Civic Association

www.sshca.org

Recent Accomplishments

- 9 new installations added to the Seminole Heights Art Trail
- Haya Linear Park Clean Up due to trash/debris build up – in addition to multiple cleans up annually
- 3rd Annual Heights Unites Music & Arts Festival
- 4 Robotics Kits purchased for Broward Elementary STEM Program
- Funded entire 4th grade Reading Readiness pilot program at Broward
- FDOT/CoT Violet/Highland reconfiguration project to improve traffic/pedestrian safety
- \$25k in grant funding in the last year – TBRPC and Hillsborough County
- SSHCA operates in complete transparency – all agenda, minutes and treasurers reports on website
- 2019 Hillsborough County Most Effective Board Award – Large Associations
- 2019 Hillsborough County Outstanding Community Partnership Award
- 2018 Hillsborough County Community Arts Award
- 2017 Hillsborough County Community Arts Award

Current Community Priorities:

Parks

- Rivercrest Park Dock/Seawall Repair and Replacement
- Haya Linear Park Shoreline Restoration Project
- Rivercrest Park tree canopy sustainability plan

Transportation

- Parking along parks, Osborne Ave
- West Giddens Avenue resurfacing (between FL and Highland)
- Highland Avenue Complete Streets Project (north of Violet)
- Pedestrian crossing at Chelsea St and Highland Ave

Misc

- Louisiana Pump Station – landscaping and fence design
- Florida/Hillsborough Corridor – Dutch Motel and trash build up
- North River Boulevard – Domain homes building on wetland

Parks and Recreation

Rivercrest Docks and Seawall

Background

- Been driving conversation since 2014 with City of Tampa
- Former P&R Director committed to funding, lost in transition to new Dir Paul
- Met with Paul in 2017 to show documentation, committed to funding improvements
- Davis Island has been fixed, Lowry Park is almost fixed
- Rivercrest continues to deteriorate, docks blocked off due to conditions in 2017, fenced in and removed in 2019

Request

- Advocate for complete and total funding in the city budget for 2021 to repair seawall and build new docks
- Assure community input in design
 - Docks need to be at high water level
 - One dock with potential for water taxi docking for future use
 - One dock allowing easy kayak launching – move current launch to Haya Linear Park with that project

Haya Linear Park Shoreline Restoration Project

Background

- Conversations started in 2017 with Thomas Ries from Ecosphere Institute
- Project had timeline for completion in mid 2020 due to grant requirements
- City put out bids, bids came back 3-4 times expected due to current economic environment
- City bid the project “a la carte” and only portions were completed
- City never reached out to SSHCA about helping fund total project
- Current project is only mitigation not restoration, now it creates a trash receptacle in park
- Southern portion of park unfunded, no plans to fund currently
 - Told to try to get it into the P&R Capital Investment Program next year

Request

- Identify funding to complete northern portion of project ASAP (grants, city, SWFWMD, etc)
 - Priority is filling in between rock wall and shoreline to restore the shoreline
- Identify funding for southern end of Haya Linear Park to include
 - Wetland regrading and restoration
 - Shoreline rockwall and restoration
 - Removal of invasive plants along shore
 - Relocation of kayak launch from Rivercrest to Haya Linear to coincide with dock project
 - Leveling of flooding areas in park
 - Potential bridge added over the stream area – was there previously, washed on shore – similar to Reed Park

Rivercrest Park tree canopy sustainability plan

Background

- Started in 2018, worked with P&R to survey trees in Rivercrest Park
- Developed short, mid and long term plantings to mitigate budget impact
- Was told there was no funding once plans were established, pushed to use city tree fund
- Email from Brad Suder (6/10) committing to the above and starting in next few weeks

Request

- None at this time, action being taken, just assure execution

Transportation

Parking along North River Blvd and North Blvd

Background:

- Discussed with transportation in 2019 and 2020, also briefly discussed with P&R in past (didn't prioritize)
- Was told they would review in 2019, emailed for follow up Jan 2020, nothing since then
- Issue is constant parking along grass easements causing deterioration along the park, cars parking in the sidewalk blocking the pathway, etc
- Main areas of concern are North River Blvd and Giddens, North River Blvd and Haya, Rivercrest Park along North Blvd

Request:

- Placement of no parking signs along North River Blvd so people park along the side roads instead or move the bollards in each park out on the other side of sidewalk to prevent parking and also protect pedestrians
- Paint parking stripes in road along Osborne west of North River Blvd – this will define parking in that area, but also decrease speed in the area as cars are forced to drive near center of road

West Giddens Avenue resurfacing (between FL and Highland)

Background:

- Road is in horrible condition and also floods regularly at Tampa/Giddens
- Request go back to 2015 with the CoT
- Multiple meetings in 2017 about, meetings in 2018 and 2019 as well
- 2017 – Told it would be placed on 2018 resurfacing due to deteriorated conditions
- 2018 – told it could be potentially added to the short segment program, but push back because we had been told in 2016 it was so bad it would need regrading
- 2019 – Avenue Lofts built adding to deterioration of the road

Request:

- Advocate for repair of this road. It has rapidly deteriorated.
- Utilize AFT Funding if/when released to help these residents

Highland Avenue Complete Streets Project (north of Violet)

Background:

- First raised concerns in 2016 with CoT and FDOT
- Ongoing conversations each year since then, primary reason for no movement is “funding”
- Design ideas have been presented to the SSHCA
- In 2019 FDOT funding has been approved in the future (design FY22, construction FY25)
<https://www.d7wpph.com/interactive-project-map/>
- FDOT said city can look at smaller issues (pedestrian crossings, beautification, lighting)
- Priorities:
 - Landscaped medians in middle lane to prevent passing in the middle
 - Improved pedestrian crossings
 - Wider sidewalks for residents due to poles/signs in the current sidewalks

Request:

- Assure this is on the map for future transportation projects – Haven't seen it reflected anywhere
- Assure there is good collaboration between CoT and FDOT on this project – future funded

- Advocate to assure that funding remains and the project moves forward
- Advocate to assure the community is involved in the design of the complete streets project
- If AFT funds are dispersed please make sure there is consideration to using that on this project

Pedestrian crossing at Chelsea St and Highland Ave

Background:

- No crosswalks between Osborne and MLK – half a mile walk between the two – busy road, especially now with 2 lanes
- Requested prior to the FDOT/CoT Violet/Highland reconfiguration
- Addressed during execution of project with FDOT
- Requested with CoT Transportation in Nov 2019
- SSHCA followed up in Jan 2020 – No response from CoT

Request:

- Please influence FDOT and CoT to install pedestrian crossing. Pedestrian safety is at risk
- Chelsea is the most logical crossroad as it is half way and an arterial under interstate as well

Misc.

Louisiana Pump Station – landscaping and fence design

Background:

- Project started in 2020 has been ongoing and minimal impact to neighborhood
- Should be completed by end of 2020, early 2021
- Great communication from Eric Weiss about project, open to feedback from community
- One commitment was an aluminum fence (not chain link per SH guidelines) and improved landscaping around building/fence

Request:

- None at this time, just assure request are followed through with

Florida/Hillsborough Corridor – Dutch Motel and trash build up

Background:

- Ongoing concerns about drug dealers and sex offenders at the Dutch Motel
 - Drug deals witnessed in neighborhood, needles and constant trash found by Dutch Motel
 - 20+ FDLE Sexual Offender Alerts at Dutch Motel since 2017
- Continuous trash build up at the Circle K – especially along Florida Ave and behind the building – some of this due to the bus stop right here as well
- Parking behind Circle K on Giddens Ave blocks the road and prevents traffic and first responders
- Parking behind circle K is deteriorating the road and the grass causing blight

Request:

- More focus from the city on administering code violations in this specific area
- Enforce no parking on north side of street along Giddens Ave
- Involvement from TPD with the community to address concerns with sexual offenders as neighborhood changes and becomes more family friendly – maybe check in with the hotel regularly (presence)

North River Boulevard – Domain homes building on wetland Parking along North River Blvd and North Blvd

Background:

- Domain homes split the single family lot into 3 lots in 2018 – less than the 50x100 size requirement, but grandfathered in
- Residents and board expressed concerns with domain and historical integrity of the neighborhood
- Multiple exceptions were approved despite the objections of residents
- 5005 North River Blvd is “wetland” as described by both domain and the CoT
- Construction was halted at 5005, Accella currently states in 2019 pending EPC approval of the area not being wetland

Request:

- Please keep an eye on this and prevent continue destruction of the neighborhood. Not opposed to lot splits, but building the same style homes next to one another becomes to suburban – This goes for Domain and other builders
- Maintain contact with SSHCA and EPC to assure that the wetland is designated as such