MINUTES
Rosenwald Community Advisory Board

Thursday, August 21, 2025 – 6:00pm
Mary C. Jenkins Community Center

Members Present:	Randy Lytle, Co-Chair, MCJCC Board Member Gary Daniel, Council Member Victor Foster, MCJCC Board Appointment Edith Darity, MCJCC Board Member Ella Jones, Citizen Member Karen Darity, MCJCC Board Appointment Morgan Monshaugen, Citizen Member Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio Member
Members Absent:	Pamela Holder, Co-Chair, Council Member
Staff Present:	Wilson Hooper, City Manager Tyree Griffin, Community Center Director Selena Coffey, Assistant to the City Manager

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Board Co-Chair Randy Lytle called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

B. Invocation

An invocation was given by Victor Foster.

C. Certification of Quorum

A quorum was certified by Assistant to the City Manager Selena Coffey.

D. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Lytle moved to approve the agenda, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Foster. All voted in favor.

E. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lytle made a motion to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded hy Mr. Daniel. All voted in favor.

F. Juneteenth Update

Mr. Lytle and Mr. Griffin provided an update on the recent Juneteenth celebration. Mr. Lytle reported that this year's Juneteenth celebration was the best yet, with high participation and positive feedback. He shared that the events spanned three days: Thursday, with the kick-off program and guest speaker, Saturday had playground festivities, vendors, music, raffles, etc., and Sunday rounded out the weekend with a joint worship service and dance performances.

Mr. Griffin highlighted ongoing efforts to build a sustainable culture around Juneteenth, emphasizing black and brown community leadership and regional engagement. He noted that the challenges included the hot weather and limited waterworks due to flooding concerns. Mr. Foster mentioned a 10-minute video recap is available and can be used for future promotion. Mr. Griffin discussed plans to update historical displays and expand the digital library and shared that there are photos from the event available on the website.

G. Outreach Strategy for Potential Property Tax Grant Program

Mr. Hooper explained recent council approval of housing trust fund bylaws revisions, which will make tax rebates/refunds available if the city receives a grant that it has applied for through the Dogwood Foundation. This totals $60,000 and will span 2 years to provide tax relief to city residents who meet the following requirements:

- Applicants must reside in the City of Brevard
- Applicants must reside in their home for 3 years
- Applicants must be 60 years or older
- Applicants must be at or below 80% of AMI income
- Applicants must remain current on all property taxes

Mr. Hooper explained that the application process will be first-come, first-served; if oversubscribed, prioritization may shift to those applicants with the greatest need. Concerns were raised about advertising before grant funds are secured and about accessibility for applicants (mobility/electronic barriers). The Board discussed how they might timestamp applications to ensure fairness.

Mr. Hooper shared that payments will be credited to tax bills or refunded if taxes are already paid and AMI figures will be based on various household sizes. The committee agreed to help spread the word once grant status is confirmed and felt that it is important to avoid raising expectations before knowing if grant funds are awarded.

H. Code of Conduct

Mr. Hooper presented a recently adopted distributed code of conduct policy for appointed committee members of all city boards and committees. He shared that this policy is modeled after city employee standards and the reason for this policy is to emphasize transparency and conflict-of-interest avoidance. After briefly reviewing the policy, board members were asked to sign the distributed form acknowledging their understanding of the policy.

After discussion of the code of conduct policy, Mr. Foster shared a letter describing concerns about law enforcement interactions during July 4th fireworks and other incidents involving perceived bias and over-policing of black community members. Specific examples included sheriff's abrupt commands, negative comments from newcomers, and differential treatment of children of color at the playground. Mr. Hooper clarified sheriff's department is currently providing overnight patrols due to city staffing shortages. The board discussed the need for improved communication, relationship-building, and joint meetings with law enforcement. Ms. Karen Darity also raised concerns about playground lighting and safety at Silversteen Park. Mr. Hooper described recent updates to the Brevard Police Department's bias-free policing policy and encouraged reporting of future incidents with details for follow-up. Ms. Copelof suggested joint police-community meetings, referencing similar efforts with the Latino community.

Ms. Karen Darity proposed using any available funds for a basketball court cover or family-style enclosed bathroom facility, citing health and safety concerns with current port-a-potties. Mr. Hooper and Ms. Copelof shared some recent cost estimates indicative of the high costs for engineering and construction (engineering alone estimated at $25,000; total projected at $100,000–$250,000). Ms. Edith Darity raised a discussion about using existing funds that were given for the park by Bethel A Church and the need for additional fundraising or grants.

I. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:00pm at Mary C. Jenkins Community Center.

J. Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Lytle made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Jones. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Minutes Approved: September 18, 2025

X _____

Pamela Holder, Co-Chair, City Council Member
Randy Lytle, Co-Chair, MCJCC Member

X _____

Selena D. Coffey
Assistant to the City Manager