



**Historic Jackson Ward Association
Public Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2019**

The HJWA Public Meeting was held in the UNOS conference room at the Jackson Center at 501 North 2nd Street. Board members in attendance were:

- Janis Allen
- Vicki Mollenauer
- Janet Armstrong
- Julius Richardson
- Lynne Lancaster

Janis started the meeting at 6:00pm.

Reports

Richmond Police Report

Lt. James Roberts, Sector 413, gave a snapshot of recent crime and said there has been a 14% uptick with 10 residential breaking and entering occurrences and 4 thefts from vehicles. There has been an arrest made of one individual who was responsible for 4 of the burglaries. Most burglaries happen during the day, so please secure your homes while at work. Another way to help RPD is to join Next Door and Ring to follow RPD reports and to report to them suspicious activity.

There has been no arrest yet for the robbery in June that occurred while two people walked from GVAR Bar on W. Clay St. Suspect proceeded to St. James and then into Gilpin Ct.

Bicycle units are back with two officers at this point. Hope to bring on more.

3rd St. Bethel ME will be having a Community Walk on Saturday at 9 am. All are welcome. Contact is Rita Willis.

Marilyn Milio asked what to do when she witnesses domestic abuse in the early morning hours near Mahogany Bakery. Lt. Roberts suggested that she email the details to him and call police each time she witnesses this happening.

Lynne Lancaster asked that Lt. Roberts speak with Officer Mizziano, our Environmental Officer, about following up on abandoned vehicles (pickup truck in 500 block of Monroe with smashed windshield and expired tags).

Leighton asked what could be done about work signs restricting parking on St. James where the date was changed, resulting in expensive tickets/towing for residents. Lt. Roberts said he would speak with her after the meeting.

Janet Armstead asked about the scooters from Bolt. Approximately 500 were placed throughout the city. 100 are already missing. There is no helmet law for scooter riders since all riders are supposed to be 18 or older. Scooter may use sidewalks as of 7/1/19.

VCU Police

Officer Jonathan Wade reminded us that there are 35 days until VCU students return. He recommended that residents use the Live Safe app to send videos/photos to VCU police to inform them of concerns.

Community Updates

Nutty Buttery – Charlene Baylor who lives in Carver came to talk to us about her new restaurant located at 701 W. Clay St. She passed out menus and invited all to come by.

Maggie Walker Birthday Celebration – Ajena Rodgers spoke about the Maggie Walker Birthday Celebration held on Saturday, July 13th at both the Maggie Walker Statue on Broad and at the Maggie Walker House (NPS). The Leadership Institute participants were honored at the celebration, and Ajena thanked HJWA for sponsoring their luncheon at Southern Kitchen.

Permit Parking – Leighton Powell updated us on permit parking progress. Only the 600 block of N. 1st Street is needed to attain the 10 contiguous blocks.

Jackson Ward Project – The developers have worked very closely with HJWA and the community. The names for the two buildings will be the Vandervivor (Mixed Income) and Rosa Row (Faye Towers Residents). Motion by Marilyn Milio for recognition that the names of the buildings had been discussed by HJWA with no dissent. Passed unanimously.

Jackson Place Development – Still slated for 63 units. Janis Allen and David Hahn had a discussion with RRHA about affordable housing and the future of Gilpin Ct. Desi Winters from RRHA said that they are in discussion now with the developer who scored the highest on the RFP. He promised to return to HJWA should any changes to the number of units be necessary, but “It will not be 200 units!” Both the CEO, Duncan, and Desi from RRHA promise to keep HJWA and the community involved and hope to keep the unit number at 63.

SNP Properties, The Penny at Jackson Ward – A meeting is planned with them in August, and eventually, we will meet the manager of the building so that we can move forward with him/her.

Gather – Janis met with them and the Arts District last week and they agreed to change their name/branding to “Gather at the Arts District” instead of “Gather at City Center”. They will have an open house/ribbon cutting with new branding on 7/26/19. They are located at 313 E. Broad Street.

New Business

Candidate for Commonwealth Attorney – Alex Taylor – Has close ties to Church Hill and is running for Commonwealth Attorney. He would like to see a community engagement prosecutor in every civic association meeting in the city and mentoring for youth to assist in stopping crime before it starts. Asked individuals to sign if they so desired to get his name on the ballot.

Community Writing Space – There is some discussion of a community writing space locating in Jackson Ward which would be open for writing assistance for residents.

Other – Janet Armstead informed us of the passing of Daniel “Sonny” Gordon, a long-time Jackson Ward resident who lived at the corner of Leigh and St. James. She is planning a memorial service for him in front of his house as soon as she can arrange it with Pastor Hunt.

Announcements/Reminders

Arthur Ashe Blvd Community Engagement Meeting with Kim Grey on Tuesday, July 23rd

Down Home Family Reunion – Janine Bell spoke about the Down Home Family Reunion which will be held in Abner Clay Park on Saturday, August 17th from 4 – 11 pm.

2nd Street Festival – Will be held on October 5 – 6, 2019

National Night Out – HJWA is partnering with Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church and Upsilon Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity (Charles Finley was a founding member of the chapter) for this year’s NNO which will be held on Tuesday, August 6th from 6 – 8 pm at the field across from the church. HJWA has been asked to assist with monetary sponsorship as well as manpower. A sign-up sheet was passed around to sign up for assignments. UNOS will also help with manpower, so Vicki Mollenauer will send sign-up sheet to Michelle Tolliver with UNOS.

www.hjwa.org Calendar – Residents were encouraged to check out the calendar of events on our website to keep up with all that is going on in our community.

Respectfully submitted

Vicki Mollenauer, standing in for HJWA Secretary