

Historic Jackson Ward Association Membership Meeting - January 16, 2019

In attendance:

- HJWA Board: Janis, Julius, Vicki, Jay, Zach, Janet, David
- Guests: Lt. James Roberts of RPD, Matt Hahn from UNOS, Tito Luna from VCU, Greg Felton from VCUPD, Park Myers of 1708 Gallery

Call to order - 6:01 PM

Welcome - by Board President Janis Allen - 6:02 PM

Reports - 6:04 PM

- Lt. James Roberts - new liaison from Richmond Police Department
 - New contact information for Lt Roberts:
 - Phone 804.646.4090
 - Email james.roberts@richmondgov.com
 - Crime Report - 2018 Annual:
 - Phenomenal crime reduction numbers:
 - 48% reduction in violent crimes (28 in 2017, 18 in 2018)
 - 16% Reduction in property crime
 - Reduction is due to increased community engagement and RPD presence throughout the year
 - 2019 Initiatives:
 - Lighting to prevent crimes against houses/property:
 - Lights on front and back porches
 - Bright porch lights
 - Motion activated security lights on back porches and back entrances
 - RVA 311 App:
 - Anything you see that the city needs to address can be reported through the app
 - City has been very responsive to issues reported, frequently addressing them within days

VCU Police Report - 6:10 PM

- By Greg Felton
- Cannot reiterate strongly enough the importance for motion sensitive lighting in the reduction of crimes against houses/property
- Question from membership: Is there an update on the overlay district that will allow VCU PD to legally enforce law in Jackson Ward?
 - Answer: the question of whether or not to extend the VCU PD enforcement area to include Jackson Ward and parts of downtown business district will be part of next City Council meeting agenda.

- Question from membership: Issues with VCU students living at intersection of Price St. and Leigh St, tenants are disrespectful toward other residents on the block, including late night parties and lots of littering around property.
 - Answer: VCU PD is aware of the complaints and is working to address the specific source/figuring out exactly who is responsible for issues. Encourages residents to call 911 when issues are occurring.
- Announcement: effective February 1, 2019, Greg Felton will be retiring from VCU PD. Aaron Levine will be the new Sergeant in charge of community relationships with Jackson Ward. A standing ovation in honor of Greg Felton's service is led by the membership.

Community Updates - 6:16 PM

- Richmond 300 Parking Meeting - January 17, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Main Library on Franklin St - Jackson Ward is part of the Downtown District for parking studies and community feedback.
- Community Conscience Discussion - from Park Myers of 1708 Gallery:
 - Scheduled for Saturday, Jan 19, 2019, from 3 to 5 pm
 - Community discussion centered on part four freedoms = more civic engagement through contemporary art
 - Example billboards can be found at Jackson St and Chamberlayne Pkwy
 - Discussing the relevance of art in communities
- Recognition of the Jackson Ward Membership Meeting occurring on Dr. Martin Luther King's 90th birthday.
- Upcoming VCU community project called "The Big Event"
 - April 20, 2019
 - Part of a national event
 - Student-run service event
 - Hundreds of volunteers working on community projects, but need input as to which projects they need to select/focus on.
 - Send project suggestions to HJWA email.
 - This event is the same day as the Spring 2019 HJWA clean up
- UNOS Community Projects:
 - UNOS staff receive 32 hours of "service leave" per year
 - Seeking weekday events and projects within the community where UNOS can partner and provide opportunities for their employees to assist with projects
 - Send suggested projects to HJWA email

Nominations for HJWA Board of Directors - 6:25 PM

- There are 12 spots on the board, each with rotating three-year terms.
- As of right now, there are 4 open spots on the board.
- Two current board members have expressed interest in returning to the board as their terms have expired: Janet Armstead and Zach Jesse.
- One member is interested in filling one of the open positions: Monty Gibson

- James Vigeant moves to vote on all three nominations as a slate, 2nd by Vicki.
 - Motion passes unanimously.

New Business - 6:35 PM

- School Supplies for Carver Elementary - by Janet Armstead
 - Carver is in desperate need of supplies such as hand sanitizer, disinfectant, clean-up wipes, etc
 - Janet is leading a Valentine's Day drive for additional supplies to finish the school year
 - Donations can be dropped off at 513 N 1st St, #2
 - Need donations by Feb 12, 2019
 - Carver Elementary has a new principal with lots of energy who is putting in the hard work to get it back up and running and needs some additional community support to ensure the students and staff have the supplies they need
- Richmond Clean City Commissions
 - Scheduled for this Saturday, January 19
 - Opportunity to get papers shredded or paint disposed of for free
 - Requires proof of Richmond residency
- Questions from the Community
 - What is the status of Abner Clay Park renovation?
 - Supposed to be starting in March, but currently waiting on a firm answer from Richmond DPW. Update coming in March membership meeting
 - Should we start an HJWA Plaque Program similar to what other historic districts in Richmond have (The Fan, Church Hill)? - from Alyssa
 - City's historic commission does not have resources to have plaques made or perform research on each individual house, but would allow for the community to establish a standardized plaque design and conduct their own research to provide historic information
 - Partnership with the historic society is unavailable at this time due to lack of resources but community can move forward with its own program if we so desire
 - Association will look into possibility of gathering research that has already been conducted and compiled to see if this is a viable program
 - Gallery 5 Community Game Night
 - Every Wednesday from 5 pm to 11 pm - bar is open and the game night is open to all ages
 - From Allen Delbridge: the "Love Your Block" grant program through the city of Richmond is currently open
 - Jan 31, 2019 application deadline, grant amounts from \$250 to \$1,000

- Additional support has been provided by AmeriCorps this year
- Contact HJWA email for more information about application
- Evergreen Cemetery is looking to restore their property and provide community enrichment
 - Monday, February 21, 2019 from 9 am to 11 am
- What is the status of the re-zoned land north of Club 533?
 - Concerns regarding the RFP that the city put out and the responses to the RFP. It is possible but not confirmed that RRHA has allowed one of the RFP responses to change the scope of the project from 63 housing units to over 200 housing units.
 - Neither the city nor RRHA can officially comment on the RFP as the process is still ongoing.
 - In 2018, the HJWA membership voted to allow re-zoning of the property under the pretense of agreements from RRHA regarding possible uses of the property and the number of units that would be allowed in the event of a multi-family development. Concern from membership is that this agreement has not been honored.
 - Discussion about what the appropriate course of action is, question as to whether or not the HJWA Board should write a letter stating our preference to adhere to the original agreement. Motion to the floor of whether or not the Board should write a letter, seconded, approved unanimously. HJWA President agrees to research issue and work with the Board to ensure an accurate evaluation is made and a factual letter is written.
- Reminder from ART180 - Sharon and Nicole:
 - Looking to increase community outreach through a youth art gallery on First Fridays.

Meeting adjourned - 7:18 PM

Respectfully submitted,
David Hahn
Secretary

Next HJWA Meeting - Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 6 PM