

The Historic Jackson Ward Association

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Public Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2020

This month's meeting was held at 501 N. 2nd Street. Janis called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. Board members in attendance:

- Janis Allen
- David Hahn
- Zach Jesse
- Mary Beth Blinn
- Julius Richardson
- Monty Gibson

Community Reports

VCU Police - Officer Luke Schrader

Non-emergency number: 804-828-1196

RPD - Lt. Robinson

It was Lt. Robinson's first day on the job. The crime statistics over the past 60 days compared to last year:

- 18% increase in major crime, with property crimes being hit the hardest
- 5% decrease in larcenies
- 6% increase in motor vehicle thefts.

His email address is Brian.Robinson@richmondgov.com

Miscellaneous

Food

The HJWA provided food for this meeting as a "welcome back" for residents and members.

Black RVA Video

Janis shared a promotional video by Black RVA which heavily featured JW locations and people.

Updates

Engine Co. #9 Mural Project - Sir James Thornhill

Sir James Thornhill presented his next project with his Global Arts Initiative: a mural honoring the Former Chief Richard Lewis and 10 firefighters at Station #9. They have a dedication

ceremony planned and are looking to interview the last surviving firefighter. He discussed the history of the organization and provided relevant details of the project:

- Location: Mocha Temple Building, 613 North Second Street, a 65” x 50” wall
- Timeline: this July
- Funding: they need \$49K. They are currently in the fund-raising stage and do have a Go Fund Me page.

Development Projects

Janis briefly ran down the construction projects in the neighborhood. We discussed holding a special meeting just to discuss development in JW, although no decision to do so was decided upon.

Committees

Janis discussed HJWA’s intent to get our community committees back up and running. Those interested in committees should message Janis or the head of the committee and look at our website (hjwa.org) for the scope of responsibilities, etc. The following are the committees, the HJWA board member in charge of them, and a synopsis of their scope:

Safety - Vicki

NNO, Cleanup Days, liaison with RPD & VCU PD

Community Engagement - Angela (tentative)

Magnets, website, sharing info w/ residents & support community, better support for events, increase memberships

Beautification - Mary Beth

Graffiti, Abner Clay Park, doggie stations, cigarette butts, house plaque program

Infrastructure - Janis

Parking, sidewalks, get parking program implemented.

New Business

Kim Gray

Kim gave an update on city council.

- Whole Foods is here. Grand opening on 1/30.
- Embrace Carver Foundation.
 - Operation Warm: Firefighters got everyone a brand new coat. Igor set up a Go Fund Me page for \$5K. So successful that two preschools got brand new coats. Altria Center donated hats and gloves.
 - Shoes from pro-athletes for 3rd grade.
 - The schools provided hot food for two weeks while kids out of school.
 - \$107K was raised.
 - Code VA donating 60 computers

- VA school of education wants to renovate (???) building.
- There's a proposed new statute for The Forgotten 14, black Medal of Honor recipients on Monument Avenue. It will be voted on next City Council meeting.
- Need to be careful about stuff like toiletries in park.

Announcements/Reminders

Check HJWA Calendar

Janis asked folks to take food, renew their memberships, and to sign up for committees. She noted the need for a point committee for Navy Hill. She noted that grants were available for the Clean Water Initiative.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted

Zach Jesse, HJWA Secretary