



**Historic Jackson Ward Association  
Public Meeting Minutes  
March 19, 2019**

The HJWA Public Meeting was held at UNOS's main offices, at 4th and Jackson. Members in attendance were:

- Zach Jesse
- Janis Allen
- Janet Armstrong
- Julius Richardson
- Vicki Mollenauer
- Monty Jordan
- David Hahn

Janis started the meeting at 6:05pm.

**UNOS Welcome**

Michelle welcomed attendees to the UNOS headquarters. She noted that UNOS was celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, and invited residents to attend festivities on First Fridays.

**Richmond Police Report**

Sector Lt. James Roberts spoke for RPD.

Violent crime statistics remained on par with last year, while nonviolent crime rose slightly.

A new patrol with five new officers will be on patrol in Jackson Ward.

RPD has a suspect in Tommie the Dog's case, although they will refrain from giving details until an arrest is made.

RPD is partnering with Ring to help surveillance in Jackson Ward. They've installed 5 new cameras, e.g. in Abner Clay and at 2nd and Marshall.

### **VCU Police**

Jonathan Wade is taking over the reign for Greg Felton, who retired recently. His title is "External Relations Officer." His officer number is 804-828-1209; his cell number is 804-347-3675.

At long last, VCU's jurisdiction will extend into Jackson Ward. This expansion will go from Lombardy to 18th's Street and from the Downtown Expressway to I95.

VCU Commencement this year will take place at the Richmond Convention Center, not the Siegel Center like in years past.

### **Jackson Place**

Orlando Artze, RRHA's interim CEO, and Desi Wynter from RRHA came and spoke to the HJWA about the proposed Jackson Place construction project. The main issue is the previous promise by RRHA to keep the unit at 63 units maximum, especially in light of recent announcements that suggest the final building would contain 200 units.

Orlando spoke about the RFP process and stressed that, despite Mayor Stoney's announcement; they have not made a decision yet. He noted that the process was still ongoing and how they can ultimately choose to pick none of the submitted proposals. He promised that when RRHA does decide on a contractor, that contractor will come to the next HJWA meeting to present and speak to the Association.

Many HJWA members, including Kim Gray, emphasized how important it would be for RRHA to adhere to their original promise. David Hahn suggested that maybe an HWJA member could be a part of the vetting process. Orlando suggested that developers could come to the meeting; members suggested that would simply be lip service at best. Orlando was adamant that they wanted community support for the final plans.

### **Abner Clay**

Gary Flowers announced that Abner Clay's daughter, Joyce, recently passed away.

Chris Frelke, the new Director of Parks and Rec, spoke to the membership about Abner Clay Park updates. First, Heywood, Parks and Rec's capital manager, broke down the history of the plans to this point.

Chris noted that, due to some additional funding secured by Kim Gray, Parks and Rec felt comfortable doing a RFP for the park. The deadline for the RFP is 4/9.

In order to help clear the funding gap, Frelke sought input from HWJA about partnering with third parties (if Richmond attorneys deemed such a partnership to be legal). Specifically, he suggested that since VCU (and VUU) both already used the park for club practices, etc., that they could help fund some of the project. In turn, Parks and Rec would ensure that they had some reserved time slots for their organizations.

Two motions were made.

**Motion 1 (Jay; Leighton seconded):** Does HJWA support the installation of sports lighting in Abner Clay Park. Motion passed with 6 Ayes and 1 Nay.

**Motion 2 (David, Leighton seconded):** Does HJWA support Parks and Rec's decision to invite third party community organizations (i.e. VCU) in funding efforts as long as communication is managed? Motion passed, with 11 Aye and 0 Nay.

### **New Business**

HJWA Spring Clean-up is scheduled for 4/20 from 8:30-11:30. This is in tandem with VCU's "Big Event".

Zach made an announcement about installation of doggie stations. Any property owners interested in installing doggie stations for public benefit should contact Zach.

Tyrone, owner of the Die Tufel Club, requested that additional parking be installed in the neighborhood, e.g. via a parking deck.

### **Tree Steward**

John Grogan from the Richmond Tree Stewards came and spoke about the volunteer organization's plans to trim trees in Jackson Ward over the next several weeks. **Motion:** Marilyn made a motion that HJWA supports the Tree Stewards trimming trees in Jackson Ward. Motion passed unanimously and overwhelmingly.

### **Discovery Map**

Linda Sequin of Discover Map discussed her company's maps of Richmond, specifically, the increased exposure they were giving Jackson Ward. Any business wishing to purchase advertisements / maps should contact Mrs. Sequin.

### **Short Announcements:**

- **1708 Gallery** - Park Myers from 1708 announced an upcoming photography exhibit.
- **Website** - Vicki announced that HJWA's new website was now up and running.
- **Rehab Expo** - 4/6 at 9:00am
- **Kim Gray Meeting** - 4/9 at 5:30pm
- **Carver Elem. Donations** - Janis relayed the success of the recent donations to the school
- **Sister City** - Kim Gray noted that the mayor of Saitama, Japan was visiting Richmond and encouraged folks to come to city hall if possible to welcome him

- **Arthur Ashe Blvd. unveiling** - Kim announced the unveiling would occur on 3/22

**Meeting adjourned at 7:41.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Zach Jesse