

# The Historic Jackson Ward Association

## Historic Jackson Ward Association

### Public Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2019

This month's meeting took place at UNOS's offices at 502 North 2nd Street. Members in attendance:

- Zach Jesse
- Janis Allen
- Angela Wilkes
- Janet Armstead
- Monty Gibson

### Standing Reports

#### UNOS - Michelle

Michelle welcomed meeting-goers and gave a brief overview of UNOS for those unaware of the organization's mission.

#### Richmond Police - Lt. Roberts

Lt. Roberts provided a crime statistic update:

- 21 crimes this cycle, which is the same as last month.
- The highest crime remains theft from motor vehicles. Most are from unlocked vehicles
- Same cautions about locking car doors and removing valuables from sight

Package thefts are a crime to keep in mind moving forward. Lt. Roberts suggested using Amazon lockers.

Janis asked about the fence vandalism. Lt. Roberts said that some culprits were identified, but no arrests had been made yet.

#### VCU Police - Officer Jonathan Wade

The VCU Police are looking to create a coalition made up of members from various communities around VCU. They will reach out to HJWA (and other neighborhood associations) asking for two volunteers to join. The goal is for this group to provide information about neighborhood concerns.

### Community Updates

#### Abner Clay Park Renovation - Heywood Harrison (Parks & Rec & Community Facilities)

Heywood noted the project started in late-September. The aim is that it will take 360 days; the hope is that it takes less. The time frame ultimately depends on the weather.

Contrary to earlier designs, the park will have lighting at night and they likely will not enforce their nighttime ban on after-dusk use of the park due to these lights and the park's proximity to urban life. These lights have been chosen and are not motion sensitive.

There will be some additional security cameras installed. However, there are no other plans for security measures.

They plan on relocating the bike share further down Clay Street. They plan on redoing the fence around the park. Art will be installed in the park; whether it is temporary or permanent is still being decided. There are no plans on renaming the park.

### **Jackson Ward Project (The Rosa & The Van de Vyver)**

The Rosa is the new senior building. Seniors moved in this month, on time.

The Van de Vyver is still in progress with a Feb/Mar 2020 opening date. They are still looking for commercial tenants.

### **RRDH RFP 2019-38 - Construction of Single Family Home**

This project consists of 8 dwellings, 7 of which are in Jackson Ward across from 6th Mt Zion Church. RRHA has identified the two developers, but aren't ready to name them.

RRHA wants our input and will come back to our meeting next year to seek it. They want to ensure it remains affordable housing.

### **Permit Parking**

Jim Vigeant is spearheading this effort. He still needs signatures, although he's got about 14 blocks within the district. People with questions should contact Janis (312-848-0196) or Jim.

### **VCU Neighborhood Outreach - Tito Luna**

VCU has a flyer with info that would be helpful for providing to new students if HJWA had some sort of welcome packet to give new residents.

Known violations of over 3 people living together can be forwarded to Tito.

### **3rd St. Bethel Church Dinner**

Dinner took place last Friday. Invited neighborhood. Good turnout. Annual event planned.

## **New Business**

### **Board of Directors Nominations**

Elections for the board were held. There were two nominations:

**Mary Beth Blinn:** Returned to the neighborhood after a five-year absence. Jim Vigeant made a motion that Mary Beth be voted onto the Board; Janet Armstead seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Janis Allen:** Thrilled to still be here. Jim Vigeant made a motion that Janis remain on the HJWA board; Janet Armstead seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Legislation re: Development of Nonconforming Buildings - Councilwoman Kim Gray**

Kim Gray spoke about an ordinance she's proposing. Currently, nonconforming parcels default to the highest density of zoning. This would close that loophole and protects historic neighborhoods. With this ordinance, these nonconforming parcels need to seek a special use permit. In total this impacts about 104 properties in the city, about 30 of which are in the 2nd District.

Navy Hill update: There are 9 members on the commission after one was voted off. They meet every other Saturday. Vice Chair does this (i.e. evaluates proposals) for a living. The Commission has a website where people can listen to all the communications and read documents: [navyhillcomission.org](http://navyhillcomission.org). There are three more meetings before public meetings begin. The Commission says that there is a risk, despite the suggestions by Navy Hill otherwise.

Parker also provided a resource for an alternative view: [Richmondforall.com](http://Richmondforall.com)

### **Announcements/Reminders**

#### **SJT Global Arts - @ Black History Museum on Wed 11/20, 10:00 a.m.**

Sir James Thornhill is having a meeting tomorrow to discuss a mural project he's doing for Engine Company #9.

#### **Kim Gray District Meeting - @ Bon Secours Training Center - 2401 W. Leigh St., Thurs 11/21, 5:30 p.m.**

Chairman of Navy Hill Commission will be there. Full agenda included in attachment.

This year, the local Firefighters Union wanted to cover a whole school with winter coats: Operation Warm 995. \$20 will provide a warm coat. Goal of \$10K. Kim will provide link for those interested.

#### **Holiday Party - @ Gallery5 on Wed 12/11, 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

Come join! We'll have some food.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Zach Jesse  
Secretary