

# The Historic Jackson Ward Association

## Historic Jackson Ward Association

### Board Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2019

This month's meeting was held at the UNOS building at 502 N. 2nd Street. Janis called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Members in attendance:

- Janis Allen
- David Hahn
- Zach Jesse
- Julius Richardson
- Janet Armstead
- Lynne Lancaster
- Monty Gibson
- Angela Wilkes

### Michelle w/ UNOS

Michelle invited neighbors to attend the United for UNOS soiree, which will be held on October 4th in the building. Those interested should see Michelle for invitations.

## REPORTS

### RPD – Sgt. Coretta Monts

Lt. Roberts was not present, so Sgt. Coretta Monts delivered the RPD report in his stead.

There was a 32% reduction in all major crimes since the last report. Jackson Ward's major issue remains theft from motor vehicles, primarily due to unlocked cars.

Sgt. Morts was questioned about RPD's response to graffiti in the neighborhood. She answered that the city is *supposed* to be dealing with Jackson Ward. David Hahn noted that owners need to press charges to prosecute.

### VCU Police - Officer Jonathan Wade

Officer Wade noted that there was an uptick in vandalism in Carver / Randolph / Oregon Hill. He is collecting graffiti for a database.

There were 12 bikes stolen this month.

There was a large increase in parties due to school returning. He highlighted VCU's noise party ordinance letter: if party houses are VCU students, VCU PD sends a letter noting that another violation within 12 months will result in direct contact with the landlord by VCU PD, the VCU VP and a Commonwealth attorney. After the third letter, the landlord gets a summons.

Personnel changes at VCU: Venutti is no longer chief of police. Interim Chief beginning August 1<sup>st</sup> is Howard "Mike" O'Berry. Assistant Chief: Lt. Nicole Dailey.

Jim Vigeant brought up old VCU program that he believes promotes graffiti: Bubble Art.

Jim also asked whether anything is put in students' "official file" as a result of a party complaint. Officer Roberts stated that he noted offenders, but nothing was put into their academic file.

## **COMMUNITY UPDATES**

### **Thank You UNOS - National Night Out**

Janis thanked UNOS for bringing an army of volunteers to help with National Night Out.

### **Jackson Ward Project**

Janis talked to Matt Engel about the RRHA project on Duval. Faye Towers residents have moved into Rose Tower. Mixed income residents will move into the Vandeviver. The apartments will be ready in February 2020 with a ribbon cutting in the spring. The developers are interested in leasing out the retail space; interested parties should email Janis

### **2nd Street Festival**

Mavis from Venture Richmond came to speak. She and her partner Sharon have co-produced the 2nd Street Festival for over 20 years. This year, the 31st Festival is slated for October 5 & 6. Street closures begin Friday. Check the event's Facebook page for full details on road closures, stages, and other facets of the Festival. There will be a parade from 2nd and Broad St. to 2nd and Leigh on Saturday the 5th at 11:00-11:15, plus a special 40th anniversary of the Maggie Walker House event.

Gary Flowers is giving walking tours of the neighborhood. This weekend, his tours are at 1 & 3 on Saturday and 3 on Sunday. [www.walkingtheward.com](http://www.walkingtheward.com)

### **Fall Clean Up Day**

Janis noted the great clean up in April. Upcoming fall cleanup day is October 19. This time, city support will not be as robust. Interested residents should meet at 8:00am at Abner Clay Park Gazebo.

### **Permit Parking**

Jim Vigeant promoted the parking permit petition and provided an update: currently, we have 9 contiguous blocks and only need one more. There are several partial blocks.

### **Navy Hill Project**

HJWA will not entertain a Navy Hill Project proposal until the Commission Proposal is finished. Kim Gray said that Monday should see what will come of the Commission. She believes that City Council will try and cancel it. City Council has 90 days to review, which starts once 5 of 9 members of the commission have been seated. Meetings on Saturday for 4 hour blocks.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RRHA RFP 2019-38 - Construction of Single Family Homes**

There are 8 houses being built through RRHA, seven of which are in Jackson Ward; one must be affordable housing. The RFP is due on 9/19; it can be read on the RRHA website. The HJWA has concerns about both eco-friendliness of the project and the ability of owners to turn the houses into Air BNBS.

### **Board of Directors Nominations**

Members interested in being on the board of HJWA should talk to a board member and submit a nomination by the 24th. We will vote at the next meeting.

### **Other**

Concerns were raised about the state of Jackson Ward's sidewalks and what the HJWA can do about it. Jim Vigeant made a motion that HJWA assess the sidewalks within the neighborhood in order to plan on how to improve them. Thoughts included taking an inventory of what was needed and seeing if city funds could be spent toward the project. The motion passed with no nays.

### **Abner Clay**

Gray met with Parks and Rec: Abner Clay Park is in the beginning stages of construction planning now that it has a letter from HJWA allowing it to coordinate with VCU about potential funding help with lightning. Construction should begin in a few months.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS / REMINDERS**

### **Check HJWA website for full details**

Richard Arts District - Social at 9/18/19 @ 5:30-7:00

Exhibits at 1708 - Park - Social Justice

Carnival of Five Fires at Gallery5 on 10/4 @ 6:00

UVA football watch party at river city roll on 9/28 @ 2:00.

Meeting ended at 7:14 pm

Respectfully submitted

Zach Jesse  
Secretary