



**Historic Jackson Ward Association
Public Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2018**

The HJWA Public Meeting was held in the UNOS conference room at the Jackson Center at 501 North 2nd Street. Members in attendance were:

- Jay Som
- Zach Jesse
- Gary Flowers
- Janis Allen
- Donna Alleyne
- Janet Armstrong
- Jourdan James
- Vicki Mollenauer

Janis started the meeting at 6:05pm and thanked people for coming out despite the foul weather.

Richmond Police Report

Environmental Officer Frank Mizziano presented.

He discussed the crime statistics in the neighborhood. In general, crime had gone down significantly since the last crime report from RPD. There was a 43% decrease in theft from motor vehicles which is generally the most widely reported crime in the neighborhood. All other crimes were down in varying degrees. As usual, he cautioned residents to not leave valuables in cars or their car or home doors unlocked.

In response to a question from Jay Som, Officer Mizziano noted that many of the suspects in the past were being arrested. One person confessed to many of the crimes that had been committed on St. James.

VCU Police

Greg Felton talked about addressing many of the party houses in the area recently. He noted in particular houses on Chamberlain and Leigh, West Clay, East Clay, and West Jackson.

Captain Butters joined Officer Felton and spoke about recent developments with the VCU Police jurisdictional expansion into Jackson Ward. According to Chief Venutti of VCU Police, the finish line for the implementation is close and likely to come to fruition.

Both officers also touched on a rash of burglaries in Carver and the Fan, robberies with an MO of going through unlocked backdoors. They cautioned people to keep their backdoors locked and reminded folks to keep car doors locked as well.

In response to a question regarding graffiti, Officer Felton noted that quick removal is key to minimizing graffiti long term.

Tito Luna

Tito Luna from VCU discussed the Master Plan for VCU's recent acquisition of property at Belvedere and Leigh. VCU is currently trying to reschedule one of the talks which was cancelled due to hurricane

The current plan for the space looks like it will be going to VCU's Department of Recreational Sports, the department that's in charge of gyms and club sports. Currently, this department is in need of more field space and group exercise as current VCU gyms are over capacity with the recent decision to allow any community member to join.

Tito stressed that he doesn't know the exact nature of what the property will look like. He imagines that, at the very least, some equipment storage will go there

Tito wants feedback from the Jackson Ward neighborhood. To provide feedback via the internet, visit www.masterplan.vcu.edu, where people can also sign up for the email distribution list and updates.

Captain Butters noted that, if the space becomes one frequented by students, VCU Police will increase their presence there.

Venture Richmond - 2nd Street Festival (October 6, 11:30-7:00; October 7, Noon-6:00)

- Mavis Wynn, Events and Operations Manager
- Sharon Bassard, Events & Booking Manager

The two representatives from Venture Richmond presenting passed out two documents related to the upcoming 2nd Street Festival, the 30th year of the festival. Those sheets contained significant relevant information, and as such these minutes will not include it here.

There will be significant street closures in the neighborhood starting Friday (see sheet for details). Note: the street closure dates on the sheets are inaccurate, although the clerical error isn't terribly confusing. These closures will last until approximately 10:00pm Sunday evening, reopening once the street has been cleaned and cleared.

The presenters noted that event parking for those helping run the event will be at the fenced lots near 533 and also near Maggie Walker Place. They commended Janet Armstead for trying to get parking passes for residents.

Gary Flowers noted that, due to the 30th anniversary, he was attempting a "renaissance role call," trying to summon organization and their members that were instrumental in the festival.

The Venture Richmond presenters ended with a history lesson on the origins of the Festival. Namely how, 30 years ago, the Valentine did a documentary on Jackson Ward. They came to Downtown Presents (the precursor to Venture Richmond) and did an outdoor presentation of the documentary at the Hippodrome, an event which turned into a block party. The next year, a celebratory event expanded. Presenters found a picture from that first event.

Clean up day (October 20, 8am)

VCU had planned on doing a neighborhood cleanup on September 15; however, that event was rained out. The new plan is to invite them to join HJWA for our already scheduled Fall Clean Up Day which will take place on October 20 at 8:00am.

Parking Permits

Jim Vigeant had asked Janis to collect names of those folks who were in support of the parking permit plan. Janis asked who was working on getting names for their blocks; no one in the meeting was. For those interested in collecting names, a petition is on the HJWA website for download.

There will be more discussion when Jim returns (who's currently on vacation), as he seems to be leading the charge.

Richmond 300: Parking Study

Not discussed.

Committees

Jay - no updates

Gary - no updates

Vicki - Abner Clay Park update

New Business

Angela had concerns about how to notify the city about the cleanliness of her street. She had already tried RVA 311. Lynne suggested calling 646-6333 and to talk to Mr. Robertson, who's in charge of that department.

Gary spoke to Abner Clay's daughter, who's concerned about the renovations coming to the playground, i.e. the name for the playground minimizing the park's namesake's accomplishments. She wants more information about who Abner Clay was displayed at the park.

Janis relayed a city email about the cleanup of storm debris. Over the next two weeks, DPW will pick up storm debris. Residents should place debris at property line for pickup which will coincide with regular trash pickup.

Janet noted how the back to school day in Carver was great. She encouraged residents to sign up for the PTA and to volunteer for kids.

Bobby Junes, a park commissioner in Henrico for 10 years who now lives in the city, has a letter about Monroe Park. He invites people to voice opinions about the park if they want.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01.