

The Historic Jackson Ward Association

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Special Parking Meeting

June 19, 2018

This public meeting was held in order to more fully discuss the nuances of the proposed permit parking regulation for Jackson Ward. The meeting was held at the UNOS building at 501 N. 2nd Street. Members in attendance:

- Zach Jesse
- Gary Flowers
- Lynne Lancaster
- Janis Allen
- Donna Alleyne
- Vicki Mollenauer
- David Hahn
- Jourdan James

Also in attendance were Kim Gray, Jackson Ward councilwoman, and Steven Bergin (804-646-3724, steven.bergin@richmondgov.com) from City Hall.

Janis started the meeting at 6:00.

Juneteenth

Prior to the parking discussion, Gary Flowers delivered a short but informative history lesson on Juneteenth and its importance to Jackson Ward.

Parking Permit

(1) Do we want permit parking?

Jourdan's survey suggested that the majority of those who submitted survey responses voted "yes."

David made a motion for a Jackson Ward residential parking program. Larissa seconded. The majority of the membership in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Due to her familiarity with the subject matter, Lynne ran the discussion.

(2) Start time

Steve Burgin described the rationale behind some of the rationales for the Fan and Carver parking permit hours.

A discussion followed about the relative merits of 9am (the most popular on the survey) and 7am (the seemingly most popular in the room at the moment). David noted how a 9am start time potentially allows for abuse from students/city hall employees, e.g. parking in the neighborhood and moving cars during a lunch break.

David made a motion that the proposed residential parking permit begin at 7:00am every day of the week. Larissa seconded. Many ayes, one nay, one abstain. Motion passed.

Several people complained that they thought they were just voting for a start time, while David's actual motion also outlined the days of the restriction as well. There were concerns about how the weekend restrictions would impact the ability of residents to have guests over/parties. Steve Burgin noted that short term, temporary passes could be procured from city hall, often with a same-day turnaround. There were also concerns as to how the parking restrictions would impact Sunday church services. Zach disliked Saturday/Sunday restrictions since those days didn't address the target issue, namely students/city hall workers. Lynne noted the convention center could be a reason for maintaining the Saturday and Sunday restrictions.

Jourdan made a motion that the parking restriction operate from Monday through Saturday. Vicki seconded. Two ayes; many nays, three abstain. Motion failed.

(3) End time

Larissa moved that the residential parking restriction end at midnight daily. Emily seconded.

Discussion followed about why Carver's restriction lasted until midnight. Steve Burgin noted that this was done through an ordinance. Jason Harvey voiced his thoughts about how many people come into the neighborhood for dinner/theatre and Uber out, leaving their cars here. Zach stated that having hours last until midnight would alienate businesses and potential residents.

Lynne, in response to a question, noted that different blocks can have different hours.

Steve Burgin cautioned the HJWA to not put times in the ordinance. Doing so requires going to city council should we ever want to adjust the hours. He also noted that blocks can't be added or subtracted without going to city council, and that a year needed to elapse before any such changes could take place.

David voiced his opinion as a business owner. Specifically, he noted how he prefers that cars are encouraged to come and go. Kim Gray mentioned that we should also be cognizant of how the large apartment complex being built on Marshall would likely pose an issue should that block be included in the permit program.

As an attempt to compromise, David proposed that the ending hours could be different on Friday and Saturday. He made a motion that the parking permit hours last until 10pm from

Sunday through Thursday and that they last until midnight on Friday and Saturday. Emily Harvey seconded. Many ayes, no nays, 3 abstentions. Motion passed.

(4) Length of time

Jason Harvey made a motion that the time limit for non-permitted parking be two hours. David seconded. No official vote was taken; however, the tone of the room seemed to suggest that 2 hour time limit was a foregone conclusion.

Again, concerns about church services arose. Some members suggested extending the time limit to three hours on Sundays. Lynne and Steve noted that this change (along with the hours already voted on) would be problematic for signage reasons.

(5) Number of permits per household

David asked a threshold question: What constitutes a "household?" Steve answered: A household is any individual unit as well as single family units.

This definition elicited concerns about the units in the Marshall Street apartment complex. David suggested that we have a different criterion for what households are eligible for a permit. His specific example defined a "household" as any unit in a building with 7 units or fewer; units in a building with 8 or more units would not qualify. Steve was not sure whether this would be possible, and wanted to defer to legal. He promised to get an answer to the HJWA by next week.

Kim Gray noted that an alternative way to avoid the issue was to not include the Marshall Street apartment complex in the permit parking zone. Steve noted that special use exceptions could no longer be used to exclude the apartment complex.

David asked whether we could tie the number of permits to the number of people on the lease. He noted that DC permit parking requires that a name on a lease must match the registration of vehicle. Steve answered that method would work. He also allayed some concerns, noting that full time students are an exception to the requirement that the situs of vehicle be its registration site and that children living at their parents' home fall within the statute as well.

There were still concerns about whether a "homeowner" was different from a "renter" or "household," two terms used in the survey. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, this concern was put on hold.

Everyone agreed that we would need another special meeting in order to finalize the parking permit issue.

David made a motion to hold a second meeting next Tuesday, June 26th, at 6pm. Larissa seconded. Unanimous ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Zach Jesse