

Updates for the Historic Jackson Ward Community

Submitted by Marilyn Milio, HJWA President

Life has been very busy and exciting for the community:

1. **Abner Clay Park** - In 2016, the Timmons group submitted to Richmond City, an opinion of probable construction costs for the original Abner Clay Proposed Renovations. The estimated cost came to \$2,978,397.00. That estimate is 2 million more than what was originally proposed. As good financial stewards, the HJWA Board, Beautification Committee members and the community decided to revisit for a smaller scale project, where the cost would be closer to the original \$1,000,000 estimate.

A great place to start is with the Playground!

We will have a totally new playground in the same location by October 28, 2017. How? We were gifted an anonymous donation of \$200,000 by a resident of Jackson Ward who walks past the park and wanted to ensure that children had a safe, beautiful place to play. The City of Richmond and Communities in Schools brought on KaBoom, a national organization that builds playgrounds with the help of volunteers. There is a process, and I will let the community know what that process is as soon as we have finalized. We will need the help of the entire community from Design Day to the Build Day. KaBoom has established a successful process. Community players include City of Richmond Parks and Recreation – Deborah Morton and Heywood Harrison, Paul Manning – Neighbor to Neighbor, Kim Gray 2nd District Councilwoman, Dr. Harold Fitrer - CEO Communities in Schools, Melissa Terranova and Tara Fitzpatrick - community members, and me, representing the Historic Jackson Ward Association. As a community we are required to donate \$8500 to the project. HJWA voted to use part of the money from Altria to cover this expense. There will be many opportunities to volunteer and become committee members. Please follow the link to express your interests. KaBoom staff will contact you

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQZzl4LB3cg7VGC4ubMZY7Ron1CPdtpMLlbH6bepzEpGkaOg/viewform>

2. **Dog Waste Stations** - We are purchasing 15 Dog Waste Stations and placing the majority of them in public spaces around Historic Jackson Ward. We have put one in on Adams near Clay to determine the difficulty and timeframe. 30 locations have been chosen and we are finalizing the 15 to submit to the City to receive clearance for administrative encroachment and Miss Utility approval. We will choose a Saturday for installation and will send out a request for volunteers. These stations have bags, not disposal.
3. **Plant 20 -30 trees in wells that are open.** We are working with Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (LGBG) and the City to determine best location and time.
4. LGBG and Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority are planning on developing a small orchard on the corner of Adams and Leigh for greening, harvesting and education. HJWA is hoping to partner and also establish a **small community garden**. A community member has

been working on a garden project and will submit a proposal by June 3rd. She attended and completed the Ginter Urban Gardner Program.

5. **Tree Trimming** -We are seeking suggestions to trim a few trees that are completely overtaking the electrical wires in the community. We are seeking locations for the trimming that would aid in safety and increase visibility for the neighborhood.

*** Monies for items 2 and 3, the garden part of 4 and 5 have been allocated from our Altria Grant.

6. Our **new HJWA website** will be ready to launch soon. We will make an announcement when it is live. You may now pay membership via paypal on the website.
7. **HJWA Brochure** -We have a new brochure that highlights historic places in Jackson Ward. The second printing is coming soon.
8. Please stay tuned for updates on projects both commercial and residential coming to Jackson Ward. Some updates are in the minutes on the website.
9. The community engagement committee created a letter to send to homeowners who are leaving their properties in unsafe and unhealthy conditions. Please send an email to hjwassociation@gmail.com to report a property and include the address, reason for letter and the owner's name and address if rental property. We will send the letter and follow up with the results.

Upcoming Dates:



Sunday June 4, 2017 11am-6pm

VCU-NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM Thursday, June 22nd from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM VCU ASPIRE 835 W Grace St, Richmond, VA

The renaming of Fire Station 5 to “The Jackson Ward Fire Station” and re-commissioning Engine 5 to Engine 9 Ceremony - July 2nd

Clean and Green - VCU and HJWA, Saturday July 8, 2017 8am - noon Meet at the Abner Clay Gazebo to volunteer.

Dedication of the Maggie Walker Statue - July 15th 10am Check for updates on all the festivities