

Updates for the Historic Jackson Ward Community

Submitted by Marilyn Milio, HJWA President

October 2017

- 1. The Playground at Abner Clay Park** - #playatabnerclay. As some of you have noticed the playground equipment in Abner Clay Park has been removed. The sand was being removed this weekend to ready the area for the playground build on November 17th 8am – 3pm. Parks and rec will be placing locks on both gates until the playground is completely ready. Please sign up to volunteer at www.cisofrichmond.org/playground. This is a wonderful opportunity to come out and meet the community. A slight change in the surface plans: due to the cooler weather the rubberized all access surface material cannot be installed until the spring. Playground mulch will be used on the 17th and remain until the spring. Also note: 1 - the new fence will also be replaced as part of the overall revitalizing of Abner Clay, 2 – the cobblestone alley next to the park will need to be closed for a few days while the equipment is delivered. May be from 15th – 17th. I will let you know as soon as I hear. **I submitted the ideas for lighting as suggested by members to both the Timmons Group and Parks and Rec. The gazebo is a definite with stronger lighting. The lighting is not included in the budget and we would need to raise more funds.**
- 2. HJWA Board Elections** - It is time again to vote your new board members. We have 5 slots, each with a three year commitment, open. I will send out bios of all candidates next week. The candidates are:
Lynne Lancaster – reelection
Julius Richardson – reelection
Vicki Mollenauer – reelection
David Hahn – new
Jim Vigaent – new
Angela T. Wilkes – new
The elections are on November 15th. You must be a paid member to vote.
- 3.** The HJWA Board voted to end the agreement with the website developer. It has been a two year ordeal and is not working out. We are investigating other options. Please email hjwassociation@gmail.com if you have suggestions or would like to assist with this project.
- 4.** Please check out a separate email with the information from Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority regarding the rezoning of a property on 2nd, 3rd, Jackson, Duval. They have sent a list that they highlight with businesses that could be added to be excluded in their conditional zoning request. Please read carefully and let me know which other ones you might want added to the list. Representatives from RRHA will be at the November meeting.
- 5.** VCU President, Michael Rau is requesting community input for the Master Plan. *“VCU President Dr. Michael Rao announced the launch of the University's new master site plan process. Please see the attached document or visit <https://masterplan.vcu.edu/> for more information. The University is committed to providing an open, thoughtful, transparent and inclusive master planning process designed to engage the VCU community and our external stakeholders. To that end, VCU is holding several input sessions (details below) that may be of interest to you.*

Monroe Park Campus

Date: Tuesday, October 31st

Time: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

Location 1: Cabell Library 1st floor lobby

Location 2: University Commons 1st floor near food court

MCV Campus

Date: Thursday, November 2nd

Time: 11:15 am – 12:45 pm

Location 1: McGlothlin 2nd floor lobby by bridge to Main Hospital

Location 2: Larrick Student Center Lobby

Monroe Park Campus*

Date: Wednesday, November 1st

Time: 5:15 pm – 7:15 pm

Location: University Commons 1st floor Floyd Ave. entrance lobby

Parking in the Main Street deck will be validated for our off-campus visitors. Please see Master Plan staff at the meeting for validation.

6. The following is copied from an email from Alice Tousignant, President Robinson Street Association:

“The Robinson Street Association is fighting back on all of graffiti. We’re done with it and we hope that you are as well! It detracts from the beauty of our neighborhoods and encourages other crime. We’re working with the Police Department and our City Council representatives to do something about it. We are asking your help and participation in these efforts. A month ago, Robinson Street was hit pretty badly with graffiti. The vandals were caught on tape at Spoonbread. Richmond Crime Stoppers has posted the video and a reward to catch the vandals. We ask that you post this video on your face book pages, forward it to your Board members and email list. Let’s blast it all over so we can catch the vandals. Here is the link

http://www.richmondgov.com/Police/crimestoppers/2017/crimeweek_1737.aspx

We know that there was another graffiti vandal caught on tape in the Carytown area this week. If we can get a copy of that tape, we’ll forward it to you. If you have other tapes of graffiti vandals, please share with your fellow civic associations so we can get the word out.

We are also encouraging residents and businesses to install video camera with good night-time resolution. We are researching whether businesses located in an Enterprise Zone could possibly get a rebate on cameras. When we find out, we’ll let you know.

Removing graffiti quickly is a deterrent for more graffiti. One way to do this is by the use of chemicals applied soon after the incident. Therefore, we are also encouraging civic associations to purchase chemical removal products from PPG across from Home Depot, 6504 W. Broad Street. This chemical should be stored in a garage somewhere. You could then publicize its availability to your members who get vandalized for use within a day of incident. Otherwise, ask folks to complete the Graffiti Removal Release of Liability form and send to DPW The City is only able to help with small jobs. We are working with our City Council representatives to try and secure additional funding for graffiti removal. Finally, Councilman’s Agelasto’s office is working with Councilwoman Gray’s office to plan a larger community meeting at the end of February to inform, educate and get input from community members on all aspects of graffiti, including the law, prevention and removal of graffiti from our neighborhoods.”

Upcoming Dates:

First Friday and Inlight Friday November 3rd

Membership Meeting

November 21st 6pm 501 N 2nd Street UNOS Bldg

Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 12th 6pm – 8pm

Sahara Mediteranean Grill

219 E. Clay Street