

HJWA April 15, 2008 Membership Meeting

Meeting opened by President, Charles Finley

Introductions of Attendees

Minutes of March 2008 Membership Meeting reviewed and accepted

Lt. Lisa Drew, Sector 413 RPD: Incidents of burglaries in the Jackson Ward community have increased. There have been four (4) residential burglaries with the perpetrators entering through windows. These burglaries occurred at 402 W. Clay Street, 504 W. Clay Street, 306 W. Broad Street and 611 St. Peter Street. Lt. Drew advises residents to check and ensure their homes are secure enough to deter opportunities for easy access. Some commercial businesses have also experienced burglaries and they all occurred before 11 pm. There were three (3) other attempted burglaries from commercial businesses. Thefts from motor vehicles have also increased. It's been noted that it is extremely dark and ten (10) different areas have been noted as needing more lighting. Lt. Drew has assigned two (2) extra officers and has approved overtime. Residents are requested to please call if they see any suspicious activity or persons. A follow-up walk through at Second and Broad Streets has been scheduled for April 26, 2008. Jackson Ward will be the focus during the next 30 days.

Relocation of the Richmond Health Department: HJWA is preparing a letter of disapproval on the move but, it has been said that it may not happen due to neighborhood concerns. They want to bring more info to the body asking for the specifics. Leighton Powell, vice president, indicated she had an e-mail from Delegate Jennifer McClellan saying they will not move the free clinic here. One member who has worked for the health department does not want them to be turned away. Ron Stallings states it is perception and requests that we keep our minds open. Mr. Stallings states the Health Department staff does a good job of keeping folk from hanging around outside of its current office at 501 North Tenth Street. Julius Richardson, Jackson Ward resident and retired city of Richmond Police officer spoke of problems with the clientele based on his 25 years of working in the same building. The Department of Housing and Community Development's lease is up in June 2008. Additional information should be forthcoming.

Celebration of the City Lights Partnership took place at Abner Clay Park but, was shortened due to rain. HJWA still needs projects for which the Capital One grant funds can be used. Suggestions from this body and other residents are needed. It is important that residents provide input for projects, activities, etc. that would ordinarily be impossible without the generosity of these funds from Capital One. Janice Armstead suggested more extensive beautification projects. She also suggested the possibility of a block party/cook out at Abner Clay Park as the start of an *Annual Jackson Ward Celebration*. Lt. Drew suggested assistance with the RPD Golf Tournament would be a good use of the Capital One funds. As part of the Abner Clay beautification project, a Green Space project was proposed at Adams and Leigh Streets but there has been a change in personnel and staff at school system so there is some uncertainty about the

future of this proposal.

Ebenezer Baptist Church is hosting a Community Forum and the June Fair on June 28th or July 19th celebration of its 150th anniversary. There will be arts and crafts, antique cars, etc. HJWA has been asked to participate with a display and/or monetary donation. Further discussion of this activity will take place at our June 2008 membership meeting.

Permit Parking Project – No report

HJWA Funding Guidelines – No report

HJWA Clean-Up Day- there will be a big truck for large items, a sign-up sheet is going around the room and signs will be placed through out the community to notify other residents.

Gateway Signs Project: Cornerstone will have preliminary drawings available at a meeting Demmie Murray and Charles Finley will attend on Friday April 18th. This project is made possible with a grant HJWA received from PMUSA. [REDACTED]

Charles met with staff of the Department of Economic Development. They will pay for the banner signs with a grant they have to do signage. They have several phases for the project.

OIC Building: At this time, the building is being cleared and cleaned out on the inside. The two vacant buildings behind OIC are being planned as market-rate single-family housing.

We need to get together enmasse phone calling to talk about Preddy Ray's house. 106 ½ E. Clay St. Code violation 646-7550, call Catherine Easterling. [\[I don't have a clue about this unless we were talking about his house at Jackson and Chamberlayne. We might want to just delete this.\]](#)

Water Pipe Maintenance that has caused the extensive hoses through out Jackson Ward will supposedly continue for a while longer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Demmie Murray, Secretary
HJWA Board

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