



Historic Jackson Ward Association Membership Meeting - January 16, 2018

In attendance:

- HJWA members: 14
- Guests: Lt. James Roberts of RPD, Michelle Tolliver from UNOS, Tito Luna from VCU, and T. Bey from Die Teufel Club of 16 E Marshall St
- Board members in attendance: Janis Allen, Gary Flowers, Vicki Mollenauer, David Hahn, Janet Armstead and Jay Som

Call to order - 6:01 PM

Welcome - by new Board President Janis Allen - 6:02 PM

- Introduction of new Board Members (David Hahn and Angela Wilkes) as well as BoardMembers in attendance and newly elected Board Officers:
 - Janis Allen - President
 - Gary Flowers - Vice President
 - Vicki Mollenauer - Treasurer
 - Secretary responsibilities will be shared on a rotating basis among remaining Board members
- Thank you to Past President Marilyn Milio for her leadership and guidance over the past years; we look forward to her continuing in an Ex Officio advisory role with the new Board and Officers
- Janis' tips: make sure she has her glasses AND if you tell her something important, make sure she writes it down
- Outlook on the new year from the new President:
 - Grow the organization in both membership and footprint
 - Build new membership and continue to make existing membership more active (make sure you've paid 2018 dues; if you paid between 11/1/2017 and now, your 2018 dues are paid)
 - Think about what you want from the HJWA and what you can do to support those ideas

- Continue improving the safety and beautification of the community
- Remain good stewards of the history and significance of Jackson Ward
- Be receptive to suggestion and feedback from members of the community, (suggestion cards will be available at every meeting to collect additional input)

Reports - 6:11 PM

- Lt. James Roberts – Sector 413 Lieutenant from the Richmond Police Department
 - New contact information for Lt. Roberts:
 - Phone 804.646.4090
 - Email james.roberts@richmondgov.com
 - Crime Report - 2017 Annual:
 - 2017 saw a 33% reduction in violent crime in Jackson Ward (30 incidents in 2016, only 20 incidents in 2017)
 - 34% increase in property crimes in 2017, primarily due to: not locking car doors, not securing houses before leaving, and leaving valuables in visible places (such as laptops or purses in unattended vehicles)
 - 4th Precinct was the #1 precinct in all of Richmond for total crime rate reduction in 2017!
 - Crime Report - Last 28 days:
 - 38% reduction in property crime
 - 37% reduction in overall crime
 - 2018 Plan to continue to reduce crime:
 - At least 4 community walks per sector every 28 days (2 day, 2 night)
 - Chief of Police has directed every officer to spend at least one hour per shift walking their neighborhoods - getting out of the car will help them stay in better touch with their communities
 - Every 28 days, Lt. Roberts can make new support requests from RPD for additional resources, such as support from vice or additional traffic enforcement; email Lt. Roberts with any questions, concerns, suggestions, or requests for additional support
 - Questions from the membership:
 - Audible fireworks or gunshots the past few nights, possibly coming from Gilpin Court
 - RPD is putting additional resources into Gilpin to address ongoing issues and has seen a reduction in overall incidents, but if you think you might hear an incident, be sure to report it so it can be addressed before it potentially escalates; Lt. Roberts would prefer they check on an incident to find out nothing malicious is happening than have an incident escalate and result in injury or worse

- Question regarding loitering on Henry St. near the Rite Aid and 804 Tobacco Shop. There is drinking, loitering and trash being left since the bus stop was removed. Lt. Roberts will have his officers visit the area to see what can be done.
- Question regarding ongoing traffic issues and accidents at intersection of N 1st St and E Leigh St
 - Lt. Roberts will request additional motorcycle officer presence to monitor intersection
 - When you see an ongoing issue such as this, make sure to email Lt. Roberts
- Are Richmond PD and VCU PD actively working on a plan to add Jackson Ward to the dual enforcement zone overlay to give VCU Police authority to follow up on actions in the neighborhood?
 - On a precinct level, Lt. Roberts has already seen success with collaborative efforts between RPD and VCUPD and is working to increase those efforts in 2018 and to push to include Jackson Ward in those efforts
 - At the command level, Richmond PD and VCU PD are currently working through the details of their future relationship and whether or not to officially amend the dual enforcement zones, which may include adding Jackson Ward to that zone, but no official decision yet

VCU Report - 6:36 PM

- By Tito Luna
- Officer Felton sends his regrets for not being able to attend due to a prior engagement
- No updates at this time
- No questions from the membership

City Council Report - 6:37 PM

- Kim Gray sends her regrets for not being able to attend due to a prior engagement

Agenda change - moving New/Old Business ahead of Updates to ensure we address all new business - 6:38 PM

- Saturday, Jan 20, from 9 am to 5 pm, NH District Corp will be hosting a community feedback session regarding the North of Broad/Coliseum redevelopment project at the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of VA at 122 W. Leigh St.
- NH District Corp is one of the companies that has responded to the city's RFP for the project. It is our understanding that all companies who responded to the RFP are required to solicit community feedback as they prepare their proposals, so this is the first of what should be many opportunities to help

- guide the North of Broad/Coliseum project to be beneficial to that area as well as Jackson Ward
- No additional new business

Updates - 6:40 PM

- 2017 Holiday Party
 - Was a success and everyone had a good time!
 - Great fellowship, delicious food and excellent DJ
 - Let's make the 2018 party even better!
- Special Use Permits
 - On February 5, the city Planning Commission will be meeting to discuss two Special Use Permits in Jackson Ward. If these SUP's pass this meeting, they will be presented to City Council on February 16.
 - 900 St. James St - the developer of this project has not submitted any considerations to HJWA regarding their project
 - 10 W. Leigh St - the developer of this project met with the HJWA membership during 2017 and the membership voted to be in support of this proposal
- HJWA Strategic Plan
 - Written in 2015 to cover 2016-18
 - Can be found by clicking on this link:
http://hjwa.org/hjwa/Strategic_Plan.pdf
 - Key accomplishments in 2017:
 - Abner Clay Park redesign and development plan finalized
 - New Playground built
 - Ongoing and improved relationships with residents, businesses, community partners and local government
 - Updated HJWA Brochure
 - 7 Doggie Stations purchased -- 4 installed
 - Outlook on 2018:
 - Getting all committees back up and functioning to better drive initiatives
 - Marilyn Milio volunteered that she and Lisa Matthews are working to get the Community Engagement committee back up and running
 - Build membership and active members in 2018
 - 2017 membership: 39 individual members plus 8 business members
 - Questions from the membership:
 - What are the boundaries of the HJWA?
 - Historic boundary established in 1978 by National Park Service making Jackson Ward a recognized historic district: Belvidere on the west, N 3rd St on the east, Broad St on the south, and I-64/95 on the north

- There is currently a conversation within the city about whether to reinstate these boundaries so all development projects in the district would be asked to collect feedback from the association as they plan their projects
- There are parking concerns from some businesses and residents
 - Construction parking along W and E Marshall St is blocking access to businesses along that stretch
 - Questions regarding the possibility of a parking program that would protect spots for residents and businesses while preventing long term 'abuse' of free parking by people who are not actually visiting the neighborhood
 - Previous efforts to initiate a protected parking plan have run into challenges, such as: not enough residents in support of restrictions, residents do not want to pay for multiple vehicles, city requirements for number of residents in a row and blocks in a row that want a plan create some hurdles
 - There are members interested in revisiting this issue and driving this initiative
 - The Board will take up this issue at the February meeting and will have a recommendation for membership that will be discussed, amended and voted upon at the March membership meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

**David Hahn
Acting HJWA Secretary**

Meeting adjourned - 6:58 PM

Next HJWA Meeting - Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 6 PM