

JANUARY 2008 HJWA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 15, 2008

Meeting opened by Chair, Charles Finley also announcing that the meeting would be brief to allow individuals to attend the public hearing.

Introductions of attendants

Minutes were sent out and are on the website.

Lt. Lisa Drew, RPD Sector 413: Lt. Drew reports an increase in crime during the first weeks of this year, especially theft from autos. There have been 17 crimes committed since January 1, 2008. Remember not to leave anything in your car. In seven (7) of the auto thefts laptops and chargers were stolen. There were actually eight (8) thefts from vehicle in first two weeks. Robberies on Clay St. included a homeless guy robbed by two black males. There are reports of several females committing robberies. Two burglaries were committed on Clay St. Please remember to pull your curtains closed to deter potential thieves from looking into your home. At this time the main focus is in Monroe Ward and Clay St. due to theft from autos. The bus loading points for CARITAS has been a concern, as was reported last year also. There is a new RPD task force that focuses on the homeless.

Lisa Johnson-Wright, Technology Resource Center: Lisa Johnson-Wright provided an overview of the programs. She is still researching the possibility of providing high-speed Internet access in the Jackson Ward community. A major step in this process is to justify the need. She passed surveys around related to high-speed Internet interests.

Pat Smith, HJWA Treasurer: The January 2008 membership appeal has begun. From July 2007 to December 2007 the Historic Jackson Ward Association has gained 200 new memberships. The HJWA Annual Report for 2007 will be ready at the next meeting.

Responses to Queries: HJWA Chair, Charles Finley stressed the importance of responding to queries sent out on behalf of the HJWA. Responses to these queries ensure community input.

The HJWA Strategic Plan: The HJWA board has been working on the Strategic Plan for last 6 months. This is the first plan the organization has had in 6 or 7 years. It is a living document and can be changed. Copies of the document were distributed to the membership. Chairman Finley asked the membership to review and approve the Strategic Plan's Vision, Mission and Goals and Objectives. He reminds the membership that the Mission was approved in 2006 at the time of the revision of the HJWA by-laws. After review, the membership moved that the HJWA Strategic Plan Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives are approved and seconded.

Downtown Plan: On behalf of HJWA, HJWA Board Chair Finley developed a Position Paper. Upon review, the board agreed this document should be sent to the City of Richmond Planning Commission and City Council. It was requested that the membership agree with this decision by consensus or vote. It was moved and seconded that the membership supports the Position Paper and forward it to the City of Richmond Planning Commission and City Council.

Bio-Tech recently received a grant from Capital One to do an electronic version of the Z-card.

HJWA Business Association has been revived by Alan Reese. Mr. Reese has communicated with past members of the HJWA Business Association. This Association has requested a part of the Capital One money go towards helping to revive the business owners association. A meeting has been scheduled for March 26, 2008 at 5:45.

Downtown Association: Chairman Finley met with the Downtown Association and decided to choose three issues/items that HJWA and the Downtown Association really want to see done. The Downtown Association is also responding to the Downtown Plan.

Ebenezer Baptist Church is on the agenda for the February 2008 membership meeting to discuss a project they would like to do with us on UNITY.

February 3, 2008 is deadline for newsletter.

Complaints made concerning the Belvidere Medical Center parking lot having a lot of trash around it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Demmie Murray, HJWA Board Secretary