

Historic Jackson Ward Association, Inc.
Membership Meeting
March 17, 2009
Club 533 – 3rd and Jackson Streets
6:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by President Charles Finley at 6:00 p.m.

Introductions of members present – Names, address and HJWA Association affiliations

January minutes were not available for review and acceptance.

Presentations

Katie Kelly from the Historic Richmond Foundation presented an update on the Sports Backers' Anthem 'Stride through Time' Walk – Presented map of walk route through Jackson Ward. Walk is to take place on May 30, 2009 with a 9:00 a.m. start. Expected to start in Church Hill and come through Jackson Ward around 10 a.m. Walk will showcase historic places such as museums in Jackson Ward. It was suggested we host porch parties to cheer on the walkers and show support for the neighborhood. Perhaps HJWA can put our brochures in packets. Charles noted he had made suggestions to the route to cover more of Jackson Ward. This is the inaugural event. Ray Patterson from Sports Backers was not present for the presentation but came later to answer questions. No questions from association members.

Updates/Reports

2009 Legislative Update – Delegate Jennifer McClellan- Reported on the budget and legislation from the 2009 Session - State budget helped by President Obama's Stimulus Package. Saved cuts in eligibility to Medicaid and there is no money for allocations to non-profits who were used to getting funding, such as museums. The state budget is 7.2 % less than last year. 14.3 billion is in the budget for public education and small amount was added in economic development to promote the film industry in Virginia. Legislation – Jennifer handed out a complete update on Legislative activity. A copy can be obtained through her office. She highlighted a few bills: Virginia Indoor Clean Air Act –Restaurants and Bars must be smoke free unless they have a separate room with entry door and/or separate ventilation system. Mortgage Lender and Broker Act – Mortgage broker must use reasonable skill and diligence in securing a mortgage loan that is in the best interests of the applicant. Family Life Education – School divisions must distribute a summary of the family life education program to all parents and guardians to help them understand the program. She is up for reelection and asked us to sign petition to assure her name on the ballot. Jennifer also stated that we can petition her for state recognitions of people, events, places etc.

Police Report – Sgt. Michael Talley – Lengthy report on crimes in the area and special emphasis on thefts from autos which are up in our area. People are leaving their property out in the open and thieves are breaking in to steal whatever is left exposed. He emphasized that we need to remove items from cars that could be tempting to criminals or would be criminals. Neighbors are concerned about Ambiance restaurant on the 400 block of 1st Street. They appear to be open after hours and are hosting large numbers of people after 2 a.m. Noise, cars and loud music are a major problem after 2 a.m. Lt. Talley said the team is on it, including CAPS and the Fire Marshall.

Kim Gray – School Board Representative – School Superintendent Brandon presented the School Budget. She did not vote for the budget because the some members of the school board had asked for a line item format and that did not happen. They asked for the budget to be formatted that way by June 15th. She stated that she is looking for more transparency and believes that will help with accountability. She is available at HYPERLINK "mailto:kimbgray@gmail.com" kimbgray@gmail.com

City Report Charles Samuels- 2nd District Councilman – Stated that the new mayor, Dwight Jones, is taking extra steps to build camaraderie between Council and the mayor's office. He also stated that he set up a Facebook page and stated that it could be found by googling his name.

Business Items

Capital One/City Lights 2010 Planning – Charles Finley passed on this item due to time constraints.

Spring Clean-up - Vicki Mollenauer handed out the flyer and asked for sign-ups. The date is April 18th 8 am – 11am. Philip Morris has a group of volunteers looking to help with mulching, planting and clean-up. This group is available through Hands On Richmond.

Gallery 5 Anniversary Celebration – April 25th at 7pm HJWA voted to help sponsor the event at the \$1,000.00 level. Amanda Robinson said that she would email Charles Finley the event sponsorship information.

Open Discussion

Charles Finley noted that CAPS has a new lead property inspector – Mike Harris

Katrina Ward, representing Ebenezer Baptist Church – Ebenezer Baptist Church on Leigh Street has started a new food distribution service. You can receive or donate a bag of

groceries for \$17.00. One should preorder. Information about the program was handed out.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marilyn Milio
HJWA /Board Secretary

DRAFT – APPROVAL PENDING