

Minutes of HJWA meeting
March 15th 2011
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The President Mr Charles Finley called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. There were 26 members present.

The President proceeded to introduce the visitors and special guests. He invited each person to introduce him or herself. New board members identified themselves and the position they held.

The President introduced Ms Vicki Campbell from the department of public works. .

Ms Vicki Campbell

Ms Campbell gave a job history of herself. Ms Campbell expressed her passion to discuss and promote Community Gardening throughout the city. Ms Campbell gave a basic background of the green initiative. With enhancement of a power point presentation, Ms Campbell addressed the positive aspects of community gardening. Some positive aspects she addressed were

Community gardening is an excellent way to get families together.

Food chain affects biodiversity.

It has positive effect on health because the food is healthier

It provides economic security

People in lower income area gain access to fresh vegetables

It lowers crime and raises property value

It reduces pollutants

There are small fees and other minor restrictions associated with starting a community gardening project. Ms Campbell encouraged interested parties to visit the city's website at [HYPERLINK "mailto:contact@richmondgrowsgarden.com"](mailto:contact@richmondgrowsgarden.com)

contact@richmondgrowsgarden.com or visit the office at 2000 West Leigh Street.

Dr Carolyn Graham, the deputy chief administrative officer in Human services, endorsed this presentation. She also offered additional relevant information and answered some of the ensuing questions.

Leighton Powell motioned that the organization prepare a document to submit in support of the program. Vicki Mollenauer seconded that motion.

Jeff on Proposed Arts & Culture District

Jeff share many concerns about the proposed Arts and Culture District. After extensively

studying the project and pros and cons, he cited many pros but presented a compelling argument that the cons require much more scrutiny. The Association agreed to oppose this proposed plan pending further examination. There was a motion to send a letter to Councilman Samuels to inform of the association's position. The Association wants the issue to be revisited, slow the process and come up with a more viable solution. The President and Jeff agreed to draft the document on behalf of the organization showing opposition to the ordinance.

This issued was extensively debated and discussed. The Association agreed to allow further examination before fully endorsing the project.

Neighborhood Clean Up

Vicki reminded of clean up date. It is Saturday April 16th.

Lieutenant Hood

Update on crime in neighborhood – There is a reduction in crime. He addressed the protest in Monroe Park. Encouraged Police and community partnership and reiterated his commitment to keep the neighborhood safe.

Lieutenant Hood introduced Paula Missouri from the Department of Social Services. He talked about the partnership between the police and social services as a means of fighting crime by protecting children. He mentioned that Social Service, as so-called 2nd responders, assist the police in answering all calls related to families and children.

Kim Gray – Vice Chair School Board

Ms Gray addressed plans to assist improving opportunities for lower income residents: such as:

viable job training for welfare moms,

examine the feasibility of various developmental projects by conducting a year-long study of the process. This is in collaboration with a faith-based community organization.

Abner Clay Park

Bike Polo – Leighton Powell informed that the young men who regularly play bike polo in the park have agreed to do a presentation at the next association meeting to see if the neighborhood would agree to allow them that continued access to the park.

The gate on the park was put on in order to facilitate the safety of the children from the neighborhood daycare.

The question was asked whether the feeding program at Monroe Park will move to Abner Clay once Monroe Park closes for renovations.

Still many questions about the park remained unanswered. The issue will continue at the next meeting

Restricted Parking/Update

John Meara and Leighton agreed to cover 8 of the 37 blocks in the neighborhood. John has an excel file of all addresses in the neighborhood. He will mail letters to residents.

He offers a breakdown of types of home ownership in the neighborhood

They are studying ideas that worked in the fan district to see what can be copied for Jackson ward.

Maggie Walker Heritage Day

Reminder – April 16th 11:00 – 3:00

There will be free ice cream and live Jazz Music. There will also be the reenactment of the life of Maggie Walker.

Open discussions/Questions

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.