

**HJWA Membership Meeting**  
**May 20, 2008**

Meeting opened by Charles Finley, Board President; introductions of board members and guest presenters initiated.

April 2008 HJWA Membership meeting minutes moved and properly seconded for approval.

**Lisa Drew, RPD Sector 413-** Overall crime was down 9%. There were 3 violent crimes, one robbery in the 300 block of N. First Street; an aggravated assault of a homeless man on Broad Street and a domestic violence report. Several thefts from cars, one car stolen and on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. copper piping was stolen. In Jackson Ward during the period of April 18 – May 15 a police initiative realized a 75% decrease in crime that included a 29% decrease in theft from autos. The special initiative consisted of officers clocking 250 hours which also allowed for the arrest of 8 truants. A member complained about 500 W. Broad Street and Lt. Drew responded that the department is working with the management of the NY Fried Chicken restaurant. Marshall Brothers towing is working with RPD to help keep the restaurant's lot clear. Sector 413 will continue working with the findings of the RPD walk through. Stay vigilant and if anything out of the ordinary is spotted, make sure you get a good clothing description and call 646-5100.

**Lora Toothman, RRHA-** National Home Ownership Month is being celebrated by RRHA and it is showcasing some of its homes. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 308 W. Leigh St., 31 W. Jackson Street will be the focus of part of the tour. Tours will occur from 11-2pm. The RRHA Homeownership Month Committee is finalizing obtaining a bus to transport folk to and from Carver, Blackwell, and Churchill. \$25,000 forgivable loans can be applied to any property in Jackson Ward but one must be a city employee to qualify.

**City of Richmond Councilman/President of the City Council, Bill Pantele:** The budget amendments were introduced. One is for the real estate taxes to be reduced from \$1.23 to \$1.20 per \$100.

The Richmond economy is doing pretty good.

The John Marshall Hotel will be converted into condos.

There is good news about the Hippodrome Theatre and the capital budget supports the Hippodrome project.

The Gilpin demolition, would like to provide a 1:1 replacement.

The city of Richmond lost its school superintendent and most of its top management, Interim period to hire new police chief could last a while.

Wilder will not run for mayor again.

Bringing new people in can cause some lag time.

No specific answer for how long the water hoses running alongside the streets and sidewalks will be around. One member's home was flooded by the pipes. Chris

Beschler is the new director of public works who can talk about the water project.  
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Bill Pantele states it is very likely that he will run for mayor.

**Broad Appetit Festival** went relatively well; HJWA provided some funding, sold some T-Shirts. Finley suggested that we purchase baseball caps with the association's logo. HJWA member Ron Stallings says, according to marketing surveys, people are more apt to buy hats as opposed to T-shirts. No decision was made. All together, 5,000 folk showed up for the festival.

**Board Vacancies:** Finley announced that two board members resigned. If anyone present, or if anyone knows someone who is interested in joining the board, please let a board member know. The HJWA board would like some board representatives from Marshall Street area of Jackson Ward.

**Greater Richmond Challenge, Marilyn Milio:** This annual event is a civic engagement opportunity looking at assets and obstacles of the community. This year's focus was on pre-school, middle and high schools. Participants are assigned to teams and Marilyn was on the middle school education team. Participants were assigned a demographic other than their own to view things through those eyes. The team stopped in each of the counties but, did not get into Henrico due to SOL testing. Hanover is able to build the middle and high schools next to each other thus enhancing transition. The team looked at an inclusion leadership school. Two (2) alternative programs were visited in Chesterfield. Some conclusions were the need to cut out all of the bureaucracy and that 40% of Richmond city school children move around every year. J. Sergeant Reynolds wants to come into the Jackson Ward community. The Adult Career Development Center (ACDC), of the adult education facilities in Virginia has a 72% graduation rate. Studies show that there are ¼ million adult drop-outs every 10 years. The membership was reminded that HJWA sponsors Gilpin summer program which focuses on elementary and middle school children.

**Pythagoras School Update** masonry course is complete. The next session is the June 23-28, 2008 Porch Class.

**Restricted Parking Update** The association is looking for someone to take over this project.

**Signage Project-** The HJWA board chose a design and the Economic Development will pay for banner signs.

**Tourism and Neighborhood Promotion:** President Finley has been participating in a tourism program being designed the Richmond Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**City Lights Update:** Finishing up the evaluation of last year's activity.

**Health Department Move:** No additional information on this issue. A For Lease sign remains in front of the building. HJWA could lose its office space.

**Financial Request Guidelines: No report**

**Ebenezer B.C. Community Fair:** Fliers were distributed announcing this event and residents were asked to support it. Also, Finley asked the membership if we were interested in helping sponsor the event. No response was received.

**Golden Goat Must Go, Ba-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-ad!:** Several members were quite vocal about the presence of a new enterprise located at First and Clay Streets called the "Golden Goat." Other than the proprietors not coming before HJWA to introduce its business for feedback; the membership felt it unsightly and against the image that the community is trying to create for itself. Most members felt it looked like a pawn shop that is in no way representative of the type of business that would maintain the community's integrity. There was also a great deal of concern that it could attract crime. It was determined that Ron Stallings of Walker Row, who was present at this meeting, owns the building and was responsible for renting the building to the current proprietors. Mr. Stallings stated that these folk have a one year lease and if anyone present had a suggestion of someone else who could take up the remainder of the lease, he would gladly break the lease of the Golden Goat. Mr. Stallings saw no problems with the Golden Goat and its business which is gold exchange. Members, who have visited the business, continue to state that with the cameras and signage; it is set up like a pawn shop.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Demmie Murray, HJWA Board Secretary

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